

# American Girl®

November/December 1999

\$3.95

**Great!**

*Mini Gifts to  
Make and Give*

**Can't Wait!**

*A New Story Contest*

**Stay Up Late!**

*Count Down to a  
Fun-Filled New Year*





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# American Girl®

Celebrating Girls, Yesterday and Today®



## Eloise at Christmas

A funny story about a girl  
you'll love, love, love!

# 18



## On the Cover

Meet Danielle Nielsen, age 12. Danielle likes that Christmas is full of surprises. "My grandpa likes to joke around," she says. "One time he gave me a humongous present. Inside was a smaller box, and inside that was a smaller box. Finally, there was a teeny-tiny box with a ring inside!"

*Danielle Nielsen*



# Letters from You



## Splashy Style

I'm glad you put "Splash from the Past" in the July/August 1999 issue. It was neat to see how swimsuits have changed over the years. I'm on a swim team, and it would be hard to swim in a dress!

*Gwyneth Hughes*  
Age 12, Pennsylvania



## Jazzed-Up Journal

I have an idea for the nature journal craft in the July/August "Welcome to Camp AG" article. After you glue the leaf or flower to the cover of your journal, put a piece of clear contact paper over it to keep it in place.

*Carly Osteroba*  
Age 11, Colorado



## Sync and Swim

After I read about synchronized swimmers in the July/August issue ("In Sync"), I tried some of the moves. I thought they would be easy, but they were pretty tough!

*Lauren Mieszala*  
Age 11, Colorado



## Good to Yo

I am very happy that you put an article about yo-yos in the July/August issue. I like to play with yo-yos a lot! I've tried tricks like the sleeper and walking the dog before, but I couldn't do them. Your tips helped me!

*Jeranda Donatto*  
Age 12, Louisiana

## Dear Readers,

We love reading the terrific letters, stories, and poems you send to us! But sometimes girls send us poems and stories they didn't really write themselves, and that's just not right. Please be sure to send only your own work when you write to us.

## Write to Us!

Want to drop us a line? Write us at:

**AmericanGirl**  
8400 Fairway Place  
Middleton, WI 53562

You can also send letters via e-mail to [im\\_agmag\\_editor@pleasantco.com](mailto:im_agmag_editor@pleasantco.com) if you have online access. No matter how you write us, be sure to include your name and birth date. We can't publish every letter we receive, but we read and learn from each one.

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Parents' Choice  
Gold Award



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Magazine  
Awards Finalist



# Girls Express



## Buzzword

American girls everywhere will be using this buzzword this season:

### soiree

How to say it: swah-RAY

What it means: an evening party

Where it comes from: *Soiree* comes from *soir*, a French word meaning "evening."

One way to use it: "Sophie spent weeks deciding what to wear to her Aunt Edith's New Year's Eve *soiree*."



The buzzword is tucked somewhere into this issue of *American Girl*. Can you find it?

## Happy Holidays!

Our readers are full of the holiday spirit. Even their names say so!



Courtney Winter  
Age 14, Minnesota



Elizabeth Holly  
Age 12, Illinois



Maggie Holly  
Age 9, Illinois



Hannah Peace  
Age 10, Indiana



Madeline Jolly  
Age 7, Missouri



Emily Stocking  
Age 14, California



Jaycee Rudolph  
Age 10, Texas



Brittany Cane  
Age 12, Oklahoma



Amy Merry  
Age 10, Pennsylvania



Emily Angel  
Age 7, Texas



Kelli Angel  
Age 9, Texas



Andrew Christmas  
Age 11, California



## Friendship File

BFF: Best Friends in the Family!



"My best friend is my grandmother. We do everything together—from traveling to California to seeing the Rockettes dance in New York City. Sometimes we swim or watch old movies. She lives close by, so I can visit her any time. She's not just my relative, she's my friend!"

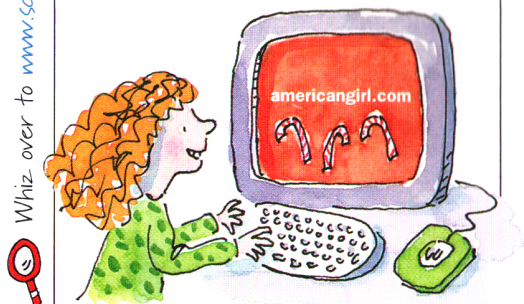
**Colleen Stellato**

Age 11, New York

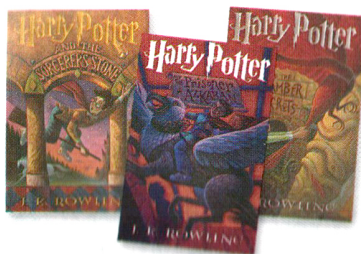
## Keep in Touch

Stay close to faraway folks.

- Make a video or audiotape of yourself. Read a poem, sing a song, or give a tour of your room.
- Write a newsletter. Call it **1999 Was Divine!** Include pictures and highlights of your year. Make photocopies to mail.
- Send an e-card. Go online to [www.americangirl.com](http://www.americangirl.com) for free cards you can customize for the holidays!



# Hooray for Harry!



Millions of girls, boys, *and* adults are wild about Harry Potter, the orphaned boy with wizardly ways whose books are flying off the shelves. AG reader Katelyn Tulp, 12, of Massachusetts, is one such fan.

"They're my favorite books of all time!" she gushes. Here are some magical morsels you may not know about wiz kid Harry:

★ Some readers think author J. K. Rowling is a man. Those initials, though, stand for Joann Kathleen! She dreamed up Harry while on a train. There was just one problem—her pen didn't work. The author was too shy to borrow one, so she hurried home and started to write!

★ After the first book, fans couldn't wait for more! Americans began ordering Harry books online from England before they were even published in the United States. Good news, though—the fourth of the seven-book series is set to arrive in *both* countries at the same time.

★ A movie is in the works, too! Don't expect it to be a cartoon, though. The author wants people to see Harry as a real boy in a real world. That's great for Rosie O'Donnell, who's begged to play Harry's friend, Mrs. Weasley!

We love Harry!  
Wizards rule!  
Down with Dudley!  
Potter for President!



## Blimey!

Some of the books' British terms can be confusing. Here's a mini decoder:



cupboard: **closet**



humbugs: **candy**



kip: **sleep**



the post: **the mail**



underground: **subway**



# Spelling B



Earlier this year, Shontay Williamson, 13, competed in a citywide spelling bee—without saying a word. How? Shontay was participating in the annual Deaf Spelling Bee held in Chicago, Illinois.

In this spelling bee, teachers use American Sign Language to sign words to each student. For example, for the word *mermaid*, a teacher makes the motions for *girl* and *fish*. Then, with the clock ticking, the student “fingerspells” *mermaid* using the ASL alphabet.

This was Shontay’s first time at the citywide level, but she plans to be back next year. “I want to win the first-place trophy!” she says.

Want to try your hand at signing? Turn to page 45 to learn how!

# True Story

Kristina has a cool Christmas.



Dear American Girl,

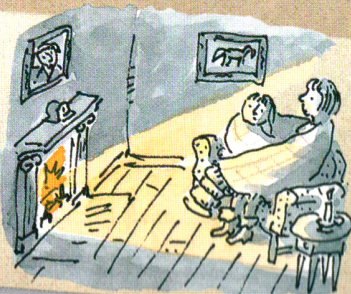
Last year my family and I spent the holidays at a hotel in Williamsburg, Virginia. I thought that we were going to celebrate a cozy, colonial-style Christmas. I didn’t expect a real colonial Christmas—with no heat or electricity!

An ice storm made the power go out in the whole town. We took cold showers (brrr!) and sat by the fireplace in the lobby to stay warm. The cooks made us sandwiches outside on the grill. At night we used candles to see—we even opened our presents by candlelight!

We left Williamsburg before the power came back on. I learned that I don’t need electricity to have fun with my family. I also learned that you have to walk slowly when you carry a candle, or else it goes out!

Sincerely,

Kristina Staley  
Age 13, Illinois



AG

# POLL



## Your answers:

In our July/August issue, we asked you which famous girl you’d choose for a friend. Here’s what you said.

Olsen twins	1,677
Tara Lipinsky	377
Brandy	318
Lisa Simpson	134

Look for Mary Kate and Ashley’s latest video!



## Next question:

Tell us which popular pooch you’d pick for a pet! Circle one.



Why?

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## Moneymaker

Team up with a friend to help out at holiday parties. Offer to take guests' coats, fill food trays, and clean up. Ask your parents to tell their friends about your services. After each party, be sure to split your earnings equally!

## Help Wanted!

Are you a twin, or do you know twins or triplets? Does being a twin make twice the fun or double the trouble? What do people never seem to understand about twins? Is there something you've always wanted to know about twins but never had the chance to ask? Send your letters and photos to the address on page 2 with your name, address, and birth date.



Cut out your answers and mail them to us.



# Deer Santa

Make a pair of *mmmmerry* stocking stuffers.

## Rudolph

**1** Remove plastic seal from **tube of mini M&Ms**. Cut a 3½-by-5-inch piece of **brown felt**. Wrap around tube. Attach in back with **tacky craft glue**. Let dry.

**2** Cut a felt face and ears. Glue face to body. Glue ears to face and let dry.

**3** Glue **googly eyes** and **red pom-pom nose** to body. Let dry. Draw a smile with a **black marker**.

**4** Slide **4 bells** onto **green pipe cleaner**. Wrap around neck. Twist **brown pipe cleaners** around top of tube for antlers.

## Santa

**1** Remove plastic seal from **tube of mini M&Ms**. Cut a 3½-by-5-inch piece of **red felt**. Wrap around tube. Attach in back with **tacky craft glue**. Let dry.

**2** Cut **pink felt** for face. Glue to body. Cut **white felt** for beard and moustache. Glue to body. Let dry.

**3** Glue on **googly eyes** and a **pink pom-pom** for nose. Glue on **white pom-poms** for buttons. Let dry.

**4** Cut triangle out of **red felt** for hat. Glue **white pom-pom** to tip. Let dry. Glue hat to top of tube and let dry. Glue a narrow strip of **white felt** for hat trim. Let dry.





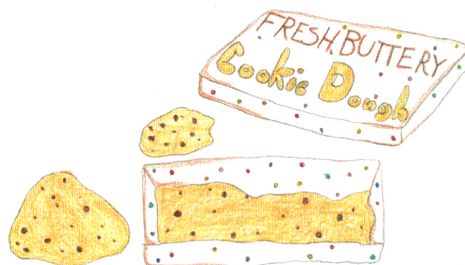
# Candy Contest

We asked you to design a new sugary treat. Here are the winners—short and sweet!



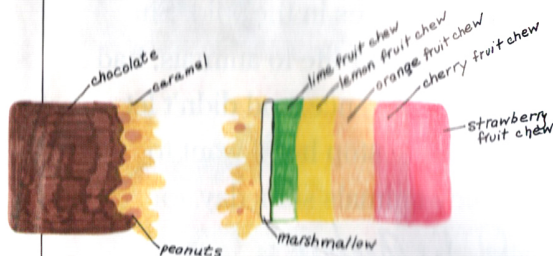
"I'm going to get braces soon, and I won't be able to chew gum for a long time!"

*Carly Kopper*  
Age 12, New York



"I can never get enough cookie dough. Skip the baking and give me the goo!"

*Mary Horak*  
Age 13, Texas



"I invented the first-ever half-chocolaty, half-fruity candy bar!"

*Johannah Oldiger*  
Age 13, Kentucky

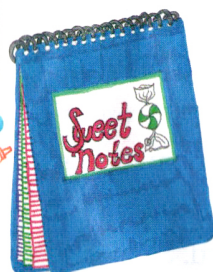
"I like shopping for clothes at the mall!"

*Micah Kramer*  
Age 14, Arkansas



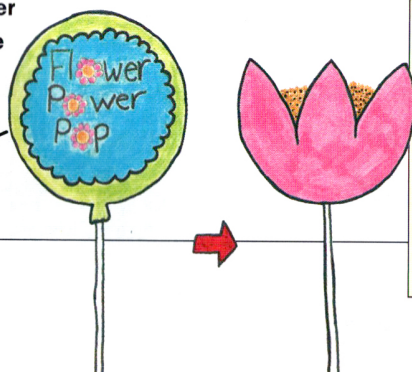
"My candy is an edible notebook with flavored pages and frosting pens. It's great for writing secret notes—afterward, just eat them!"

*Emily Edison*  
Age 14, Florida



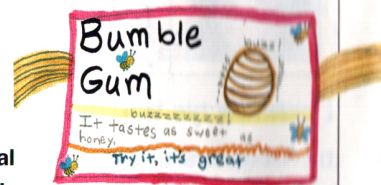
"When you lick the Flower Power Pop, it opens like a real flower."

*Amanda Bailey*  
Age 10, Massachusetts



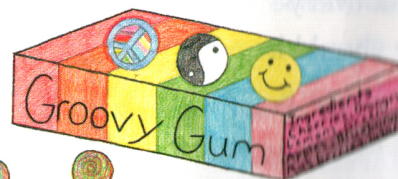
"My WNBA Mini Basketballs would have peanut butter in the middle and chocolate on the outside. Bon appetit!"

*Hannah Tumbkins*  
Age 11, Illinois



"My Bumble Gum has real honey in it!"

*Katie Ann Woods*  
Age 9, Ohio

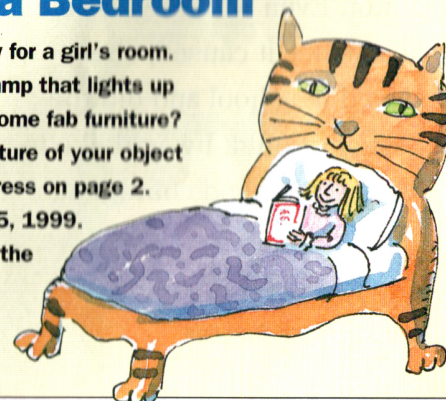


"My Groovy Gum comes in a rainbow of flavors!"

*Bridget Rafferty*  
Age 13, Maryland

## Brighten a Bedroom

Design something new for a girl's room. Is it a cute clock? A lamp that lights up when you sing to it? Some fab furniture? Describe or draw a picture of your object and send it to the address on page 2. Deadline: December 15, 1999. Winners will appear in the May/June 2000 issue.





## Favorite Folks

Whom do you admire most, and why? How would you like to be more like that person? These girls tell what they think.



I admire my dad. He helps me with everything, and

I can always talk to him. He never gives up on anything until he gets it right, and he doesn't let me give up either. I think everyone should be a little more like him.



*Amy Crandall*  
Age 12, Michigan



Several years ago my best friend Dana had a brain

tumor. Even with the terrible headaches it caused, she stayed in school and did the best she could. I would like to be as strong and courageous as she is.

*Nicole Lee*  
Age 12, North Carolina



The woman that I admire is Sheryl Swoopes.

I want to play in the WNBA like she does. She had a hard childhood, she was teased, and she did not have a car, but she never let those things get in the way of her dream. I think she's a great role model!

*Anna Feuer*  
Age 10, California



I admire both my mom and step-mom in different

ways. My mom is always willing to help and she provides a loving home for me. My step-mom is always cheerful and she treats me as if I were her own daughter. I want to have more of their good qualities. They're both great!

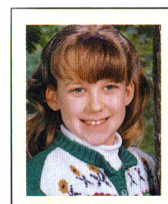
*Kate Gritsch*  
Age 10, California



Jane Goodall was one of the first people to study

chimpanzees in the wild. She devoted her life to animals, had lots of patience, and didn't let anything stop her. I want to study animals someday, too.

*Juli Ann*  
Age 10, Minnesota



My cousin Courtney is in high school, and

she's a great student. She can play the piano and the French horn. She is a pom-pom girl in her marching band, and she won a singing award. She's also a great babysitter.

I admire her a lot, and I want to be just like her!

*Jillian Pospisil*  
Age 8, Maryland







My teacher takes time to listen to what I have to

say. She makes me feel like I'm capable of doing things myself. It would be nice to be like her.

*Catherine Bantana*

Age 11, South Carolina



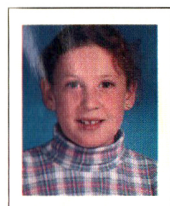
One time I went fishing with my cousins and I fell

in the water! I tried to laugh, but later I sat down and cried. My Aunt Jan said, "Don't worry! Someday you'll look back to this day and tell your children all about it. I'm sure you'll laugh." It helped a lot! Aunt Jan died in 1996, but I'll always look up to her.



*Aurora Endres-Bercher*

Age 10, Michigan



Eleanor Roosevelt helped get equal rights for everyone and made the world a better place. I want to follow in her footsteps when I grow up.

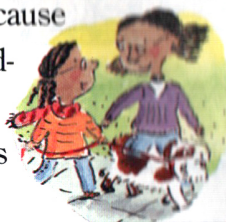
*Allie Perlmutter*

Age 9, Pennsylvania



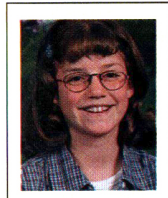
My older sister, Katrina, is special to me because

I can discuss my problems and troubles with her. I'd like to be more like her because she is understanding, friendly, and can handle things on her own.



*Jamila Thompson*

Age 12, North Carolina

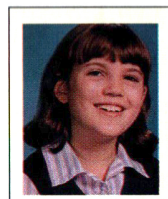


I admire Rosie O'Donnell, not only for her sense

of humor but because she cares for people. She gives her money to charities. I want to care more for people and think of others like she does.

*Emily Behny*

Age 12, Indiana



The principal of my school is wonderful. She

leads our school with courage, dignity, and hope. The thing I admire most is the way she always makes herself approachable to kids. She guides her students with kindness.

*Samantha Toney*

Age 10, New York



The person I admire most isn't a movie star or

athlete. She's just a normal person who helps me grow and learn. Most of all, she loves me when I need it. She's my mom.

*Charlotte Ann McDowell*

Age 13, Delaware

## Speak from Your Heart

Next subject: Real pet peeves.

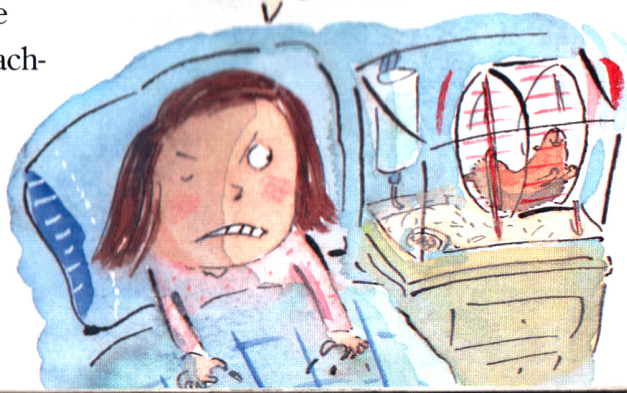
Does your cat claw the couch?

Does your friend's dog drool? Does your rat run in a squeaky wheel all night? Send us your advice for how to deal with pets' beastly behavior. What can you do to stop it?

Send answers, name, birth date, and school photo to: **AmericanGirl**  
8400 Fairway Place, Middleton, WI 53562. While we can print only about a dozen letters in each Heart to Heart, we read and learn from every one!

Deadline: November 30, 1999.

Some answers will appear in the March/April 2000 issue. ★



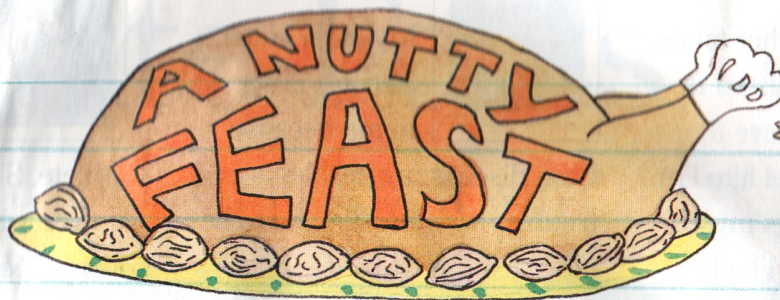


# Amelia's Notebook

Mom is always nervous when we have family over. She makes lists for everything.



Let's see, did I forget anything now? Soy milk for Raisa, Lucy's favorite granola, clean towels, and - wait, I forgot the turkey!



by Marissa Moss (and chef Amelia)

Monday, November 22

Aunt Lucy is coming to spend Thanksgiving with us. I want to do something **SPECIAL** because this is the first Thanksgiving her daughter, Raisa, has ever had. Aunt Lucy adopted her last year from a Russian orphanage. I'm sure there was no turkey there.

Tuesday, November 23

They're here! I took Raisa outside to play and we had a tea party under the oak tree.



Aunt Lucy is Mom's complete opposite (like Cleo and me, I guess). She forgot to pack any socks for Raisa, so she had to buy some on her way here.

Raisa set out some cookies and lemonade for the birds and squirrels - she wanted to feed them, too.



Mr. Bunny goes everywhere with her and eats everything.



Raisa is 4 years old, but she doesn't talk much. If you look at her face, though, you can see what she wants to say.

I made Raisa some acorn dolls to play with. She likes them almost as much as Mr. Bunny. (Now they go everywhere with her.)

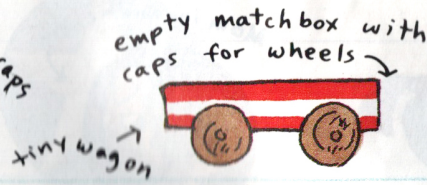
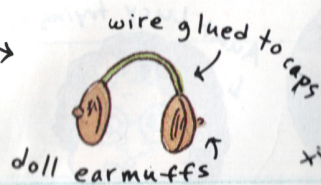


Who remembers socks anyway?

Arf!



things to do  
with acorn caps →



Wednesday, November 24



The acorns gave me an idea. Native Americans used to eat nuts lots of different ways. I got a recipe for nut mush in school – it could've been eaten at the first Thanksgiving, so Raisa should have it for her first Thanksgiving. Mom says acorns will make everyone sick, so I'm going to use walnuts instead.

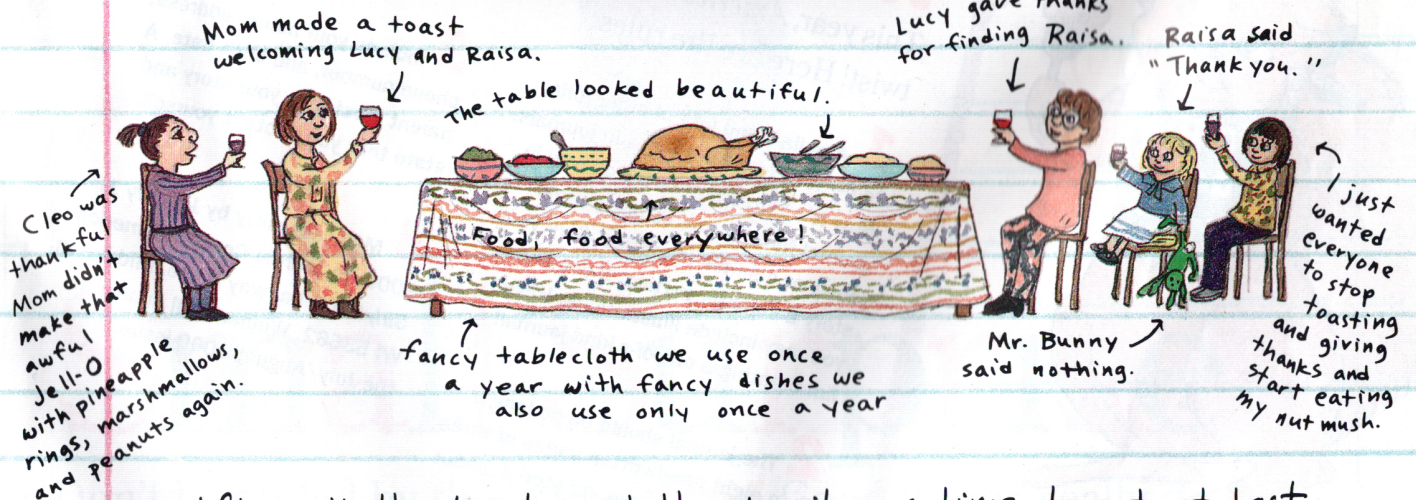


Walnuts aren't as cute as acorns, but they make good old people. →



Thursday, November 25

It's **THANKSGIVING**! The first thing I did was start to make my mush. I was supposed to grind all the walnuts, but it took FOREVER. Mom finished the biscuits, sweet potatoes, and Waldorf salad in the time it took me to make 1 bowl of mush. Finally it was done, just in time for our feast.



After all the toasts and thanks, it was time to eat at last. Everyone took a BIG bite of mush. I waited to see what they would say...

ummm, ummm, mush! →





Cleo bolting  
for the  
bathroom



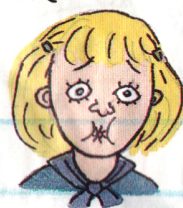
Mom in mid-chew



Aunt Lucy trying to be polite



Raisa being  
honest



Cleo ran from the table. Mom and Aunt Lucy sat there with their cheeks full, not swallowing, and Raisa said, "YUCK!"

nut  
mush



↑ a feast  
fit for  
kings  
squirrel  
kings,  
that is

I tried it, and she was right — it was DISGUSTING! The mush was so gross, Raisa took the bowl and put it outside on the ground. I thought she wanted it far away from her, but she gave me the BIGGEST smile. "Now the squirrels have Thanksgiving, too!" she said. Aunt Lucy said I'd still given Raisa a GREAT Thanksgiving. I don't know about that, but the squirrels definitely enjoyed it. ★

Yum! Thanks!  
I'm nuts about this  
mush.

← I'm glad someone ate the mush,  
but next year, I'm making  
something easy —  
like cookies.



I wonder if I could  
have the recipe.

## Journal Contest

This year, American Girl's short story contest has a new twist! Here are the rules:

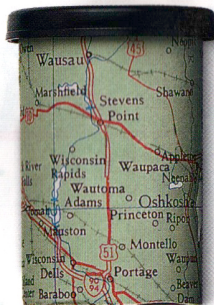
**1** Amelia—and lots of other girls, too!—love to write stories in journals. Now it's YOUR turn to tell a story in journal form. It can be one journal entry or a series of entries. Give your story a summer setting. If you like, you may include illustrations. Have fun creating a one-of-a-kind journal!

**2** The journal should be no longer than eight handwritten pages or three typed pages. Please, no stories about Amelia or the characters in The American Girls Collection.

**3** Include your name, address, phone number, and birth date. A parent must sign your story and state that you wrote it yourself.

**4** Mail your entry by January 1, 2000, to Journal Contest, American Girl, 8400 Fairway Place, Middleton, WI 53562. Winners will appear in the July/August 2000 issue.





# Small Surprises

Don't be fooled by these tiny **gifts!** Good things really do come in **small** packages! Turn the page to see what's **inside.**







# Kits

also make good stocking canisters, then decorate these fun ideas.

## Bracelet Kit

Give this to a crafty friend.

- Hemp
- Beads
- Written directions for making your favorite bracelet

## Desk Kit

Help someone keep an organized desk.

- Colorful clips
- Thumbtacks
- Rubber bands
- Erasers

## Car Kit

No more hunting for change for tolls and parking meters! Fill kit with up to \$6.50 in quarters or mixed change.

**Dollars and Sense**  
Try these ways to get good stuff cheap!

**Dollar store:** You'll be surprised at what you can buy for \$1.

**Party store:** Look for favors, balloons, and other little items.

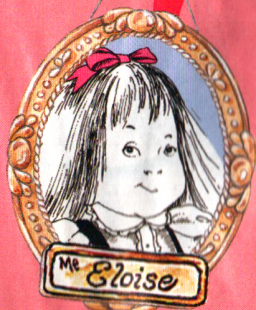
**Drug or discount store:** Look for sample or travel-size items. Check the pet aisle for ideas for your furry friends!

**Stick to stuff:** Film canisters are great for storing things, but not for food. See how many kits you can create! ★



Looking Back

# AMAZING ELOISE



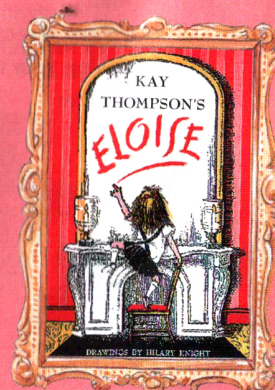
Meet a mischievous girl you'll love, love, love!



This portrait of Eloise by Hilary Knight hangs in the lobby of the Plaza to remind visitors of the hotel's famous fictional resident.

Imagine you could pick up the phone and order your favorite food—no matter what it is. Then, in minutes, room service would deliver the order right to your door! Special treatment like this is a part of everyday life at New York City's ultra-fancy Plaza Hotel. And for Eloise (EL-oh-eez), a favorite storybook character from the 1950s, the Plaza is home.

Eloise doesn't really fit in at the posh, proper Plaza. She pesters the hotel's guests, attends parties she's not invited to, and pours water down the mail chute! But her hilarious high jinks have kept her fans laughing for years. So read on and join the millions of kids and grown-ups who've learned to love the prankster princess of the Plaza.



Eloise first hit bookstores in 1955.

Visit the Web site [www.gt.net/ksrog/eeloise](http://www.gt.net/ksrog/eeloise) for more fun facts about Eloise!



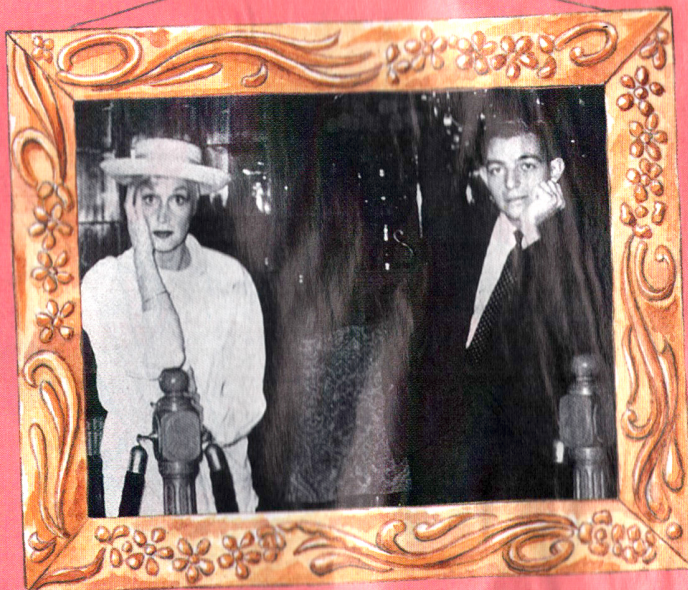




Eloise was so popular that a line of girls' clothes was named after her in 1957!



Eloise's animal friends include her dog, Weenie, her turtle, Skipperdee, and Emily, a pigeon.



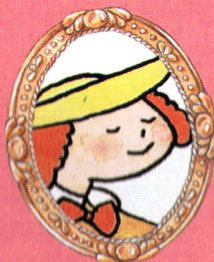
Kay Thompson (left), the writer who created Eloise, and Hilary Knight, the illustrator who brought her to life, pose for a picture at the Plaza Hotel, 1955.



Kay Thompson, shown here with Eloise dolls and books, once said she based the character Eloise on herself.

## FEISTY FAVORITES

These clever characters have kept girls in giggles for years!



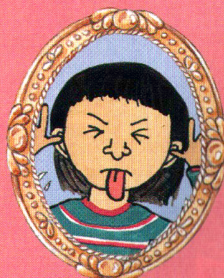
Madeline makes Paris her personal playground in 1939.



In 1945, Pippi Longstocking starts showing off her stand-up braids.



Beginning in 1955, Ramona Quimby wreaks havoc on her sister's social life.



Amelia first shares her journal with American girls in 1995.

Turn the page to meet Eloise in person!





KAY THOMPSON'S

# ELOISE AT CHRISTMAS

DRAWINGS BY HILARY KNIGHT

From the book *Eloise at Christmastime*

It's Christmas Eve  
with a blizzard outside  
And four below zero  
or more

But inside the Plaza  
we're cozy and warm  
in our rooms  
on the tippy top floor





We're Skipperdee who is my turtle  
and Weenie who is my dog  
Nanny my mostly companion  
and ME and the blazing Yuletide log



While Nanny is filling the stockings  
I shout out loud and clear  
"I must go down to the lobby  
to spread some Christmas cheer"



And Nanny says  
"Of course  
of course  
of course  
you must my dear"

Then I jingle out  
to the elevator

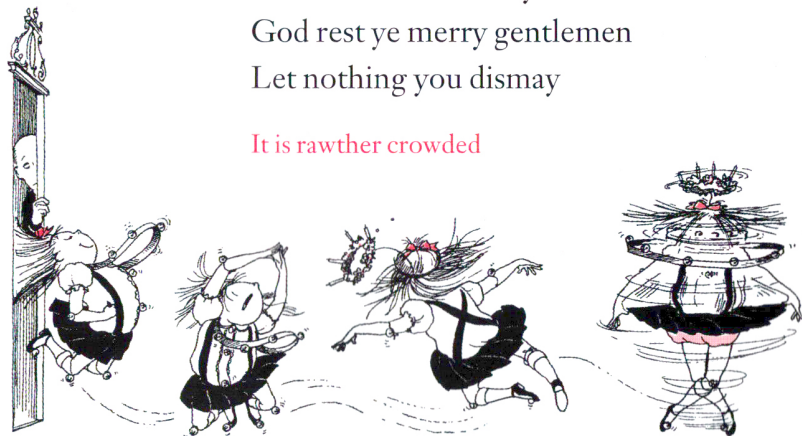


All of the cars are full to the brim  
because of the holiday  
God rest ye merry gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay

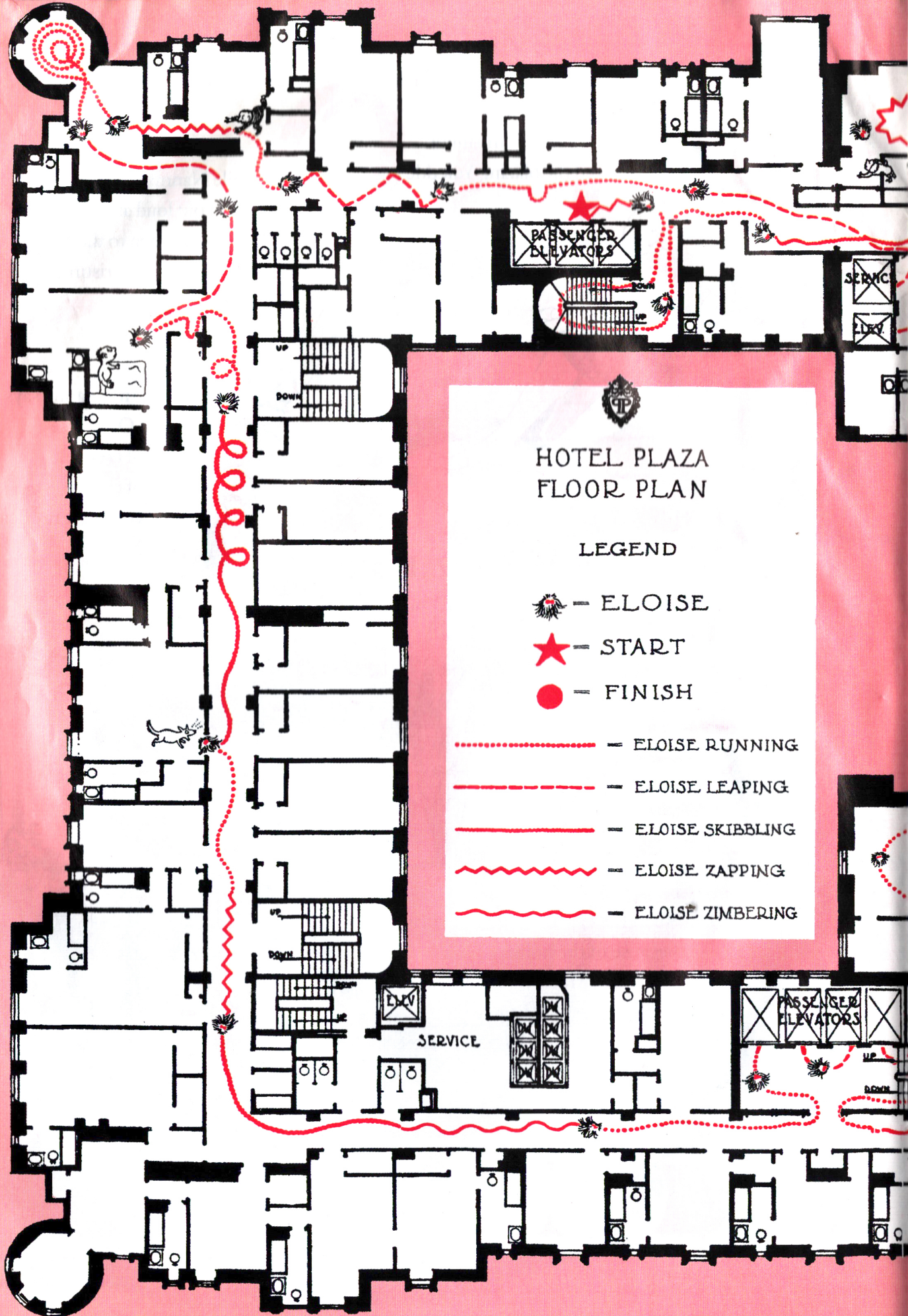
It is rawther crowded



And you should see the lobby  
You absolutely can't get near it  
There are all these people  
roaming around  
Filled with the Christmas spirit












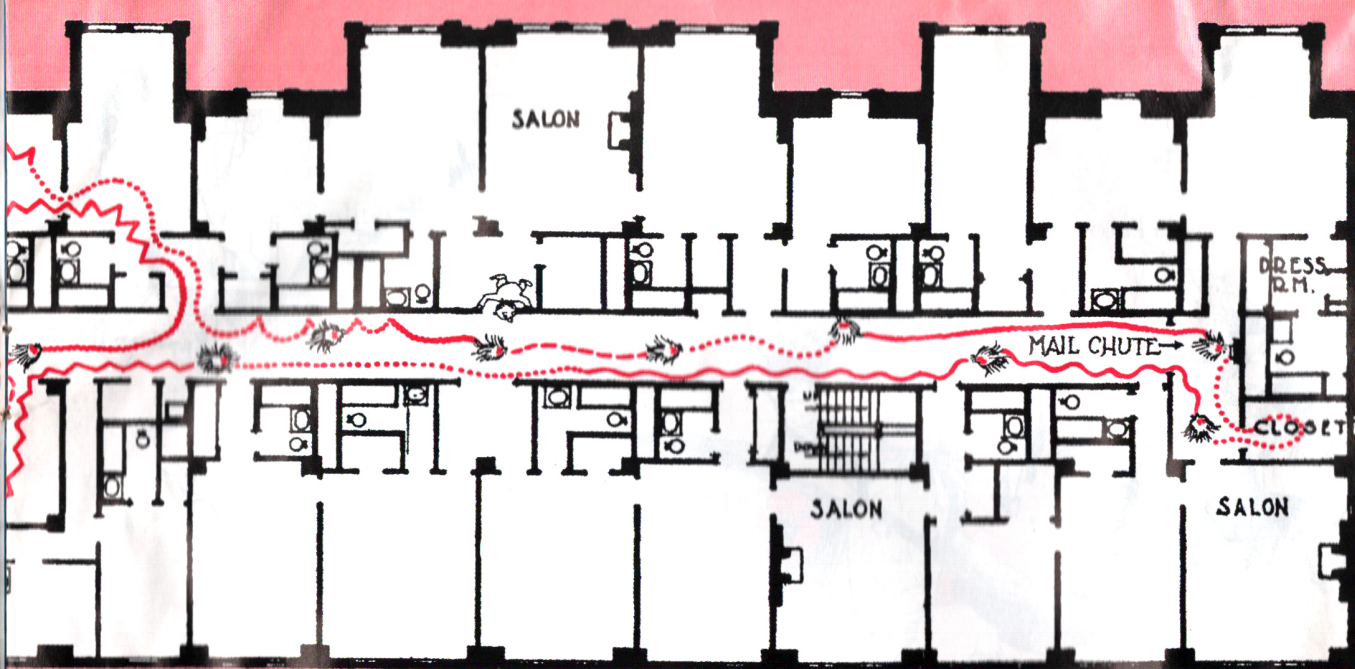
HOTEL PLAZA  
FLOOR PLAN

LEGEND

-  - ELOISE
-  - START
-  - FINISH

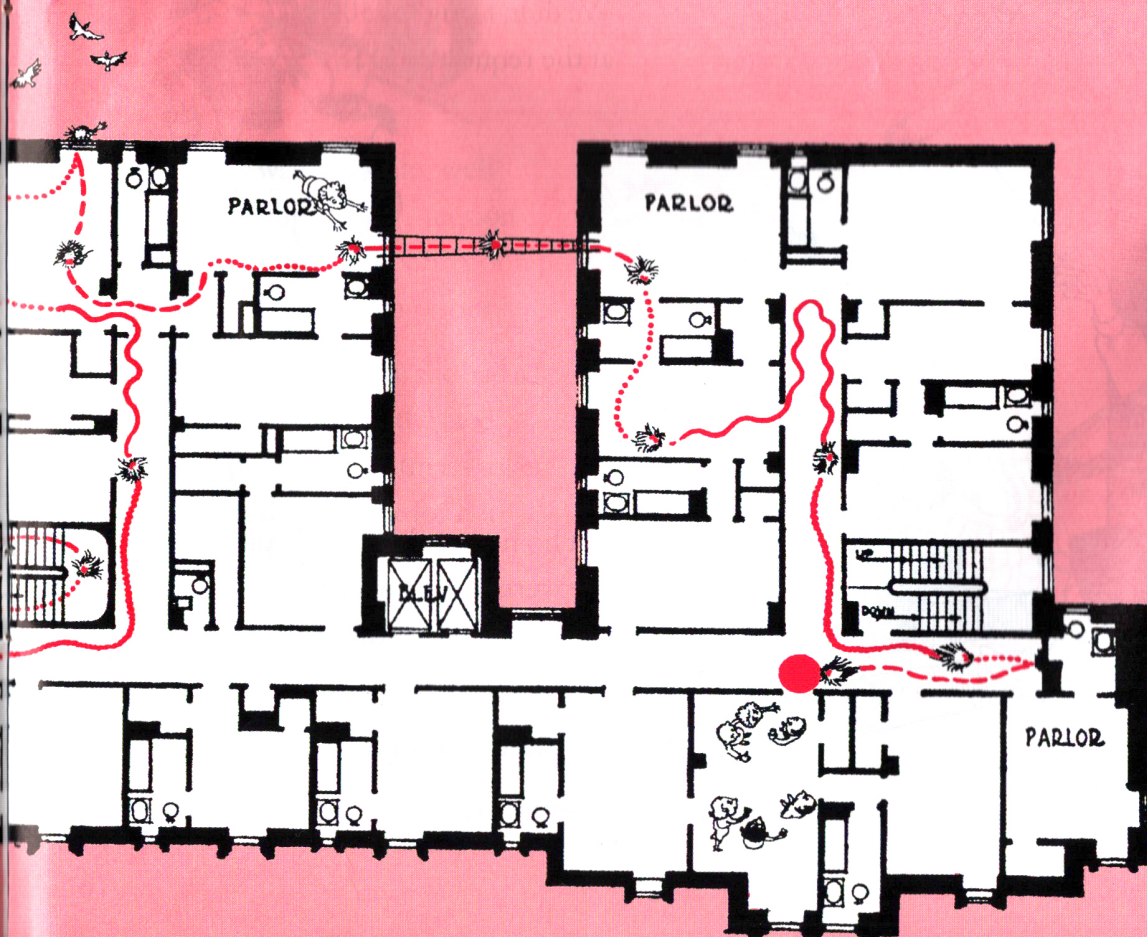
-  - ELOISE RUNNING
-  - ELOISE LEAPING
-  - ELOISE SKIBBLING
-  - ELOISE ZAPPING
-  - ELOISE ZIMBERING





Then it's zippity jingle and dash away ping  
 Hang holly and berries in all the halls  
 Tie tassels on all the thermostats and  
 Write Merry Christmas on all of the walls

*I go to as many holiday parties as I possibly can*



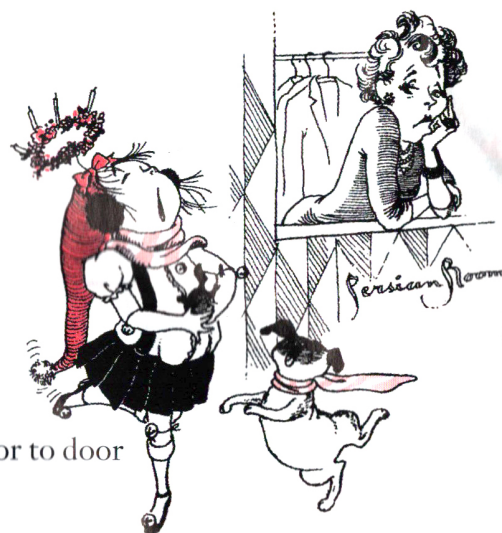


I'm rawther fond of caroling  
Fa la on every floor

Fa la la la to catering



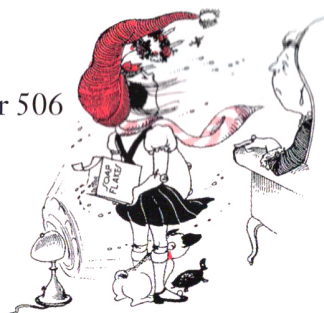
Fa la from door to door



We sang Noel for 506



Silent Night for 507

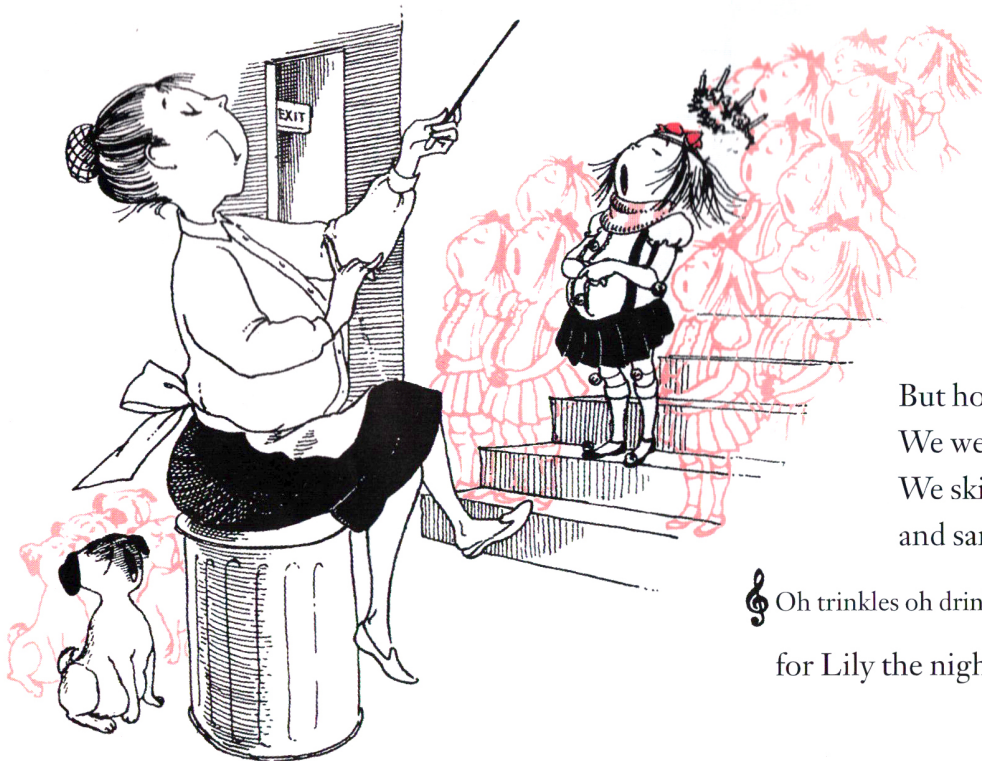


We didn't sing for 509  
at the request of 511



But ho ho ho and jiggeldy ping  
We were not dismayed  
We skibbled into the exit sign  
and sang

Oh trinkles oh drinkles fa la fa lo  
for Lily the nightmaid





My mother called  
long distance  
from the Mediterranean  
I believe  
We talked for an hour and  
charged it  
like we did last Christmas Eve

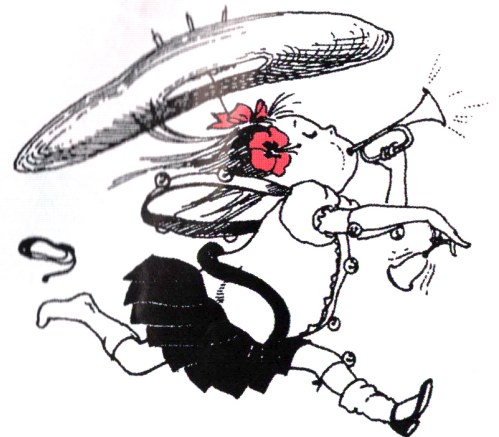
She was sunburned on her legs  
and sent me this absolutely  
sweet cartwheel hat  
with these earpuffs on it



I think it looks absolutely  
darling on me

Emily wasn't feeling well  
It's rawther sad to mention  
Nanny said "Oh pooh pooh pooh  
it's Christmas indigestion"

But she looked like she had a fever or so  
especially around the face  
So I put this Christmas basket  
out on the flagpole for her  
just in case



I usually walk around quite a bit or so  
thinking of a way to stay up hawlf the night



Then some of us sort of closed some of our eyes  
to have this Christmas dream  
of some steaming hot plum pudding  
with extra cream cream cream

Of reindeers with sunglasses on  
ice-skating on the stars  
with mittens on their antlers  
and mufflers made in Mars



And Santa chuckled and said  
“Dash on to the Plaza my lovely boys  
We’ll have Christmas punch with Nanny  
and give Eloise her toys”

*I thought he looked terribly well*

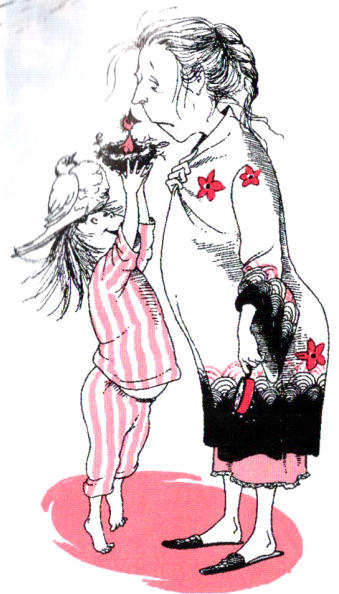




And when we awakened  
he'd come and gone  
and in all of this midnight and dark  
we could see these reindeers zimbering  
through the trees in Central Park

We could even see this tail-light  
on Santa Claus' sleigh

and Emily had a baby pigeon on absolutely Christmas day ★





# Make a Pen Pal!

A reader shares her clever idea for turning a pen into a personalized present!

## YOU WILL NEED

- Non-clicking ballpoint pen
- Tacky craft glue
- Ruler
- Embroidery floss in 4 colors (hair, skin, shirt, and skirt)
- Scissors
- 2 toothpicks



"I make these as gifts for my friends to let them know they're special."

*Amber Dove*  
Age 14, Florida

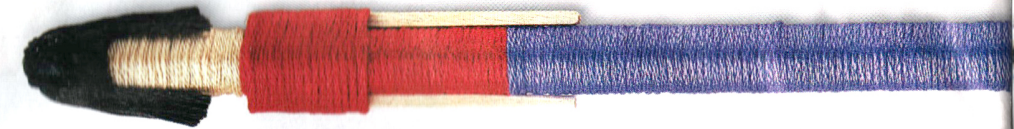
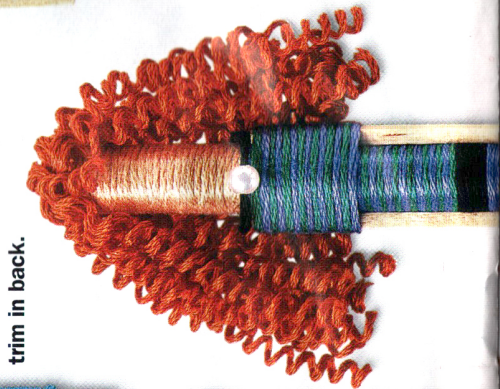
## Hair

For hair that looks like thin braids, slip beads onto floss and knot ends. For bangs, glue ends of long pieces of floss to forehead, then drape over head and trim in back.



## Stripes

For thin stripes, wrap with two colors of floss at the same time. For thick stripes, wrap a band of different-colored floss in middle of shirt.





## Tips

Blot excess glue with a paper towel. Be patient and let glue dry between steps. You can work on another pen pal while the first is drying!

## Extras

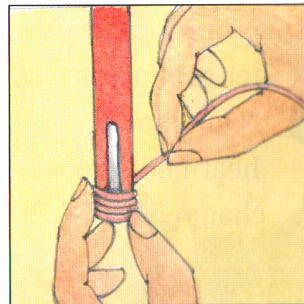
Use markers to color toothpicks for mittens or to match skin tone before gluing to body. Use beads or pom-poms for buttons. Use felt for scarves and hats. For a necklace, slip a bead onto floss. Use a pipe cleaner to trim a coat or sleeves or for earmuffs.

## Curls

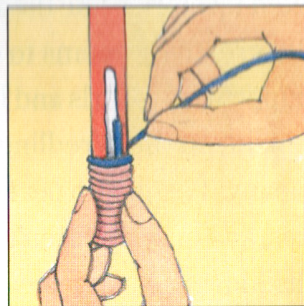
To make curly hair, wrap long pieces of wet floss tightly around toothpicks. Let dry completely. Carefully unwind floss. Follow step 5 to attach floss to pen.

## Shirt

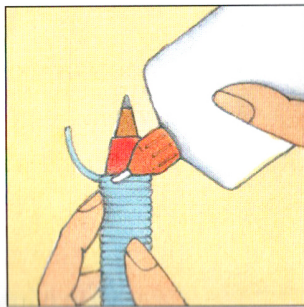
For a collar, glue toothpick arms a little lower before wrapping with floss. For long sleeves, wrap until only the ends of toothpicks are showing and glue end of floss.



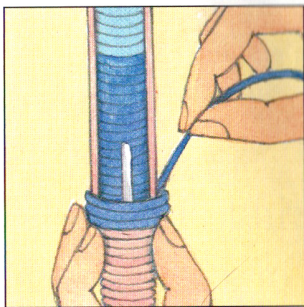
**1** To make pen pal shown directly above, remove pen cap. To make head, start at non-writing end of pen and spread a thin line of glue about 1 inch long along side of pen. Press end of floss color chosen for skin into glue. Wrap floss around pen as shown until glue is covered. Trim floss. Let dry.



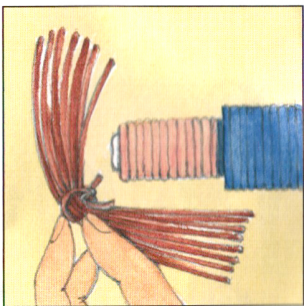
**2** To make shirt, spread a thin line of glue about 1 inch long along side of pen. Press end of shirt-colored floss into glue, starting at bottom of head. Wrap floss around pen until glue is covered. Trim floss. Let dry.



**3** To make skirt, spread a thin line of glue along rest of pen. Press end of skirt-colored floss into glue, starting where last color ended. Wrap floss around pen until entire pen is covered. Dab extra glue on bottom of pen to secure floss. Trim floss. Let dry.



**4** To make arms, break tips off toothpicks. Glue toothpicks to pen, lining them up with top of shirt. To make sleeves, start at top of shirt and spread a thin line of glue about 1/2 inch long along back of pen. Press end of floss into glue. Wrap floss around pen and toothpicks until glue is covered. Trim floss. Let dry.



**5** To make hair, cut 6-inch strands of hair-colored floss. Tie a short piece of floss around center of strands and double-knot it. Dab glue on end of pen, and press hair to glue. Let dry. Optional: gently braid strands and tie ends with floss. Trim ends of hair. ★





# A Handful of Laughs

Dinosaurs wearing diamonds? Hansel and *Pretzel*?  
With the help of some good-hearted kids, these  
quirky characters spread cheer all year long!



In the world of fractured fairy tales, anything can happen: Cinderella becomes her dinosaur double, Dinorella. The big bad *pig* chases three little wolves. Hansel and Gretel turn into Hanzel and Pretzel!

Bringing mixed-up stories like these to life takes a ton of creativity. But creativity seems to come naturally for the 26 young puppeteers—girls and boys from suburban Illinois—who make up the Wredling Middle School Puppetry Company. The group performs in elementary schools, libraries, and even children's hospitals. Most kids (and most adults!) love the puppeteers' brand of handmade humor. Thirteen-year-old puppeteer Nirupa Kartha,

who plays the part of Pretzel, understands why her group's silly shows are so popular.

"Our shows are like stories kids have heard before," she says, "but they're changed to make them funnier."







Nirupa Kartha, Amanda Thornton, Cathy Klinchuch, and Stephanie Murphy (clockwise from bottom right) know the more fun they have behind the stage, the more fun the audience has out front!

Photos: Tom Lindfors Illustrations: May Lynn Basuttia





During performances, "it's kind of squished behind the stage," says Nirupa. "We're falling all over each other!"



The performers must set up the stage just right, since their scripts are posted inside.

## Behind the Scenes

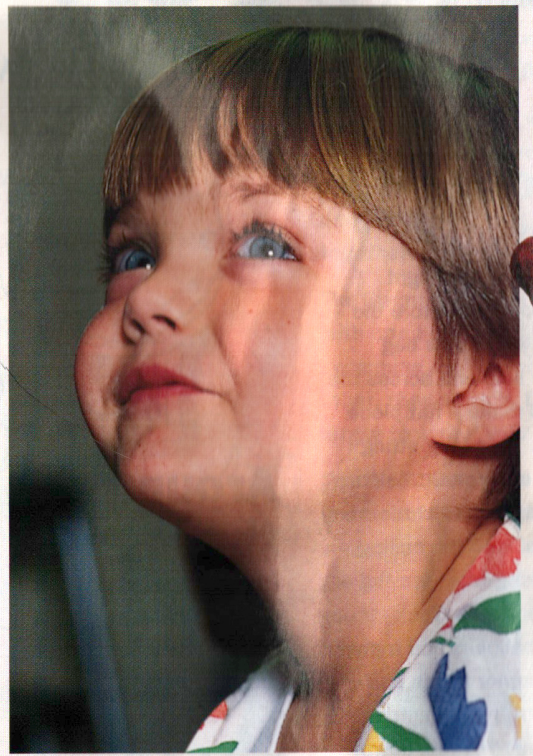
The puppeteers have a hand in every aspect of their show. They make their own puppets by forming papier-mâché heads on top of empty paper towel rolls. Then they paint the puppets' faces and get them dressed in crazy costumes. The performers rehearse for hours to learn the art of puppetry. According to Nirupa, "It's hard to keep the puppets from flopping around!" When it's finally show time, the kids are the ones who haul the heavy puppet stage into and out of all the places they visit. They narrate their own shows, and they even do their own special effects, like making Dinorella roar!



## Sharing Smiles

Sometimes, no matter how prepared the puppeteers are, things just don't go as planned. At this year's first show, the puppet stage wouldn't fit into the room set up for the performance. But the kids were true to their motto: "Adapt and overcome." After a brief moment of confusion and panic, they found another room where their stage would fit. "If something goes wrong, you can't just stop and worry," explains Nirupa. "You have to go on."

In the end, the kids' hard work really pays off. The smiles on the faces in the audience let the players know they've done their job. After most shows, the puppeteers spend time talking with the kids they've entertained. The youngsters get a chance to see the puppets up close—and another chance to giggle. "When you make people laugh," Nirupa says with a smile of her own, "it just gives you a good feeling!" ★



Favorite puppets like the Magic Chicken (above) bring big smiles to young faces in the audience.

## Holiday Cheer

Try these fun tips to spread your own good cheer during the holiday season.

Go caroling at a nursing home with a group of friends—but be sure to call first!

Make holiday cards by hand. Everyone will smile at your extra effort!

Be a Secret Santa—buy a small gift for Toys for Tots or another charity gift program.

Personalize your family's answering machine greeting with good wishes for the holidays.




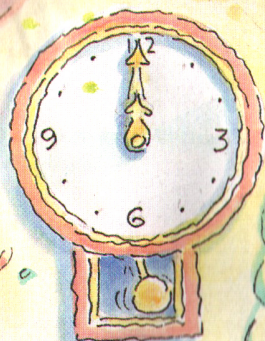


# Hooray for Y2K!

Ring in the year 2000 with a few of these timely tips.

## Balloon Drop

 Make this midnight memorable! Before the party, cut a garbage bag along one side and across the bottom to make a flat piece of plastic. Tie a long string tightly to one corner. Ask an adult to tape three corners of the plastic to the ceiling with masking tape, leaving room for balloons. Tuck in blown-up balloons and tape the final corner to the ceiling. At midnight, pull the string and balloons will rain down!



## Around the World

At the top of every hour, shout "Happy New Year!" because it is, somewhere in the world!

## Pop Quiz

Find your fortune! Before the party, write answers like "Yes," "No," and "Maybe" on slips of paper. Take the slips to a party store and have them put into helium balloons. To play, each person asks a question. To get an answer, pop a balloon!

## Millenni-YUM!

Mix a bowl of O-shaped snacks to celebrate the year '00! Start with 6 cups of popped popcorn. Mix in 3 cups of pretzel rings, a cup of M&Ms, a cup of honey-nut oat cereal, and a cup of Milk Duds. Yum!

## Fun Fizz

Make a bubbly toast! In a punch bowl, mix any flavor of unsweetened Kool-Aid powder with  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar and 2 quarts cold water. Add a can of frozen white grape juice concentrate and stir until dissolved. Pour in a 2-liter bottle of cold ginger ale and stir gently.









# Pest C

Do you know what to do when your brother or sister is **bugging** you? Try these tips for **pest control**, and be prepared for the next **attack!**



## Barge-In Beetle

Does your sibling bore through closed doors and invade your privacy? Make a sign that says PLEASE KNOCK. Give your sibling points for following the rule. Take away points when he or she barges in. Give your sibling a treat for earning a certain number of points.



## Teasing Tarantula

The best way not to get caught in a teaser's web is to ignore the insults. It may not take the bite out of mean words, but after a while your sibling may grow bored and creep away.

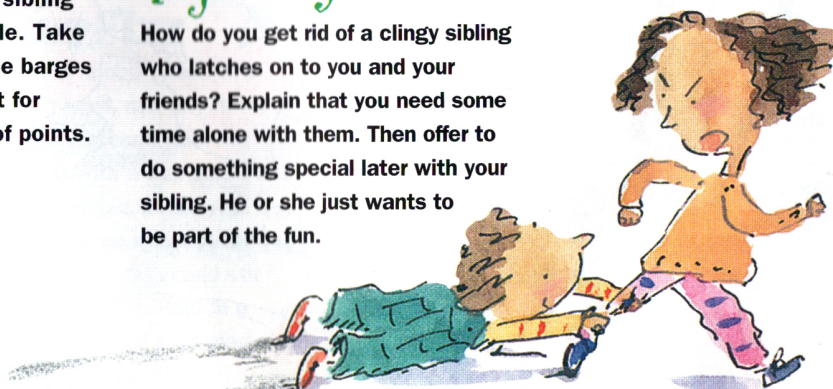


## Copy Caterpillar

If you cut your hair, so does your sister. If you jump rope, she jumps rope. It's frustrating, but she just wants to be like you. Bring out the butterfly in her by helping her develop her own style. Compliment her taste when she chooses things on her own.

## Tag-Along Tick

How do you get rid of a clingy sibling who latches on to you and your friends? Explain that you need some time alone with them. Then offer to do something special later with your sibling. He or she just wants to be part of the fun.



Adapted from the book *Oh Brother... Oh Sister!* in bookstores now.



# Control

By Brooks Whitney

## Phone Fly

What's that annoying buzzing sound on the line? It's your pesky brother trying to listen in! Chase him away by not giving him anything interesting to listen to. Save the juicy details for a time when you know he's not around.



## Closet Ants

To prevent them from marching off with your favorite clothes and toys, throw your siblings some crumbs. Set up a special box with things you don't mind sharing. Then store your prized possessions out of reach.



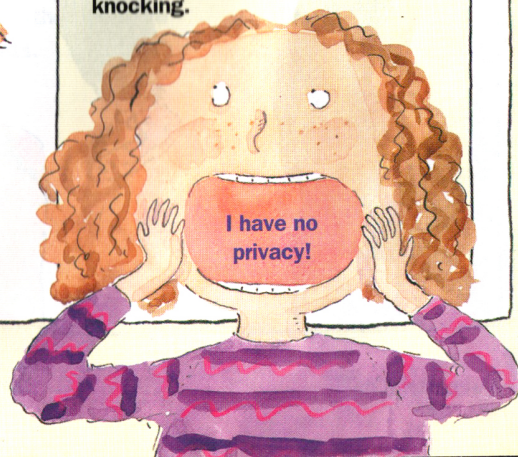
## Bossy Bee

Are you bothered by a brother or sister who always tells you what to do? Instead of saying "Buzz off," try a little honey. Nicely remind your sibling that the best way to get you to do something is to ask politely, not to order you around.

## Poll

### Top 10 Most Annoying Things Siblings Do

- 10 Gets all the attention.
- 9 Blames me for everything and gets me in trouble even if I didn't do anything.
- 8 Breaks, ruins, or loses my stuff.
- 7 Punches, kicks, or hurts me to get what he or she wants.
- 6 Follows me everywhere and wants to do everything that I do.
- 5 Bosses me around.
- 4 Takes my stuff without asking.
- 3 Teases me, calls me names, and says mean things about me.
- 2 Tattles on me.
- 1 Barges into my room without knocking.





## Quiz

# When Are You a Pest?



You might not realize it, but your own behavior may be bugging your siblings. Circle the answer that tells how likely you are to act in the following ways.



**1.** Your little brother is watching his favorite cartoon. You can't understand how he could like such a stupid show. You stand in front of the TV and refuse to move unless he changes the channel.

**a.** Yes, that's me. **b.** I might do this. **c.** No way!

**2.** Your sister is doing homework in the room you share. You want to listen to your new CD. She asks you to wait, but you put it on and start dancing around the room anyway. After all, it's your room, too!

**a.** Yes, that's me. **b.** I might do this. **c.** No way!

**3.** Your brother has the softest baseball glove ever. You want to borrow it for a game, but you're afraid he'll say no. So you take it without asking. You're sure you can return it before he notices it's gone.

**a.** Yes, that's me. **b.** I might do this. **c.** No way!





**4.** While looking in your sister's desk, you come across her secret diary! You've always wondered if she writes about you. You open the book and start reading.

- a. Yes, that's me. **b. I might do this.** c. No way!

**5.** You've been on the phone with your best friend for half an hour. Your older brother wants to make a call, but your friend's in the middle of an important story. So you ignore your brother and stay on the phone.

- a. Yes, that's me. **b. I might do this.** c. No way!

**6.** When your older sister has friends over, you follow them around and spy on them. That's what they get for not including you in the first place!

- a. Yes, that's me. **b. I might do this.** c. No way!

## Pest Test

Give yourself 2 points for every c you circled. Give yourself 1 point for every b, and 0 points for every a.

**9-12 points** You're a super sister. You work hard to respect your sibling's feelings, privacy, and personal possessions.

**5-8 points** You're learning to be considerate and fair, and that shows you care. But there's still room for improvement. Remember to think before you act.

**0-4 points** Pest alert! Your actions are more selfish than sisterly. The easiest way to change that is to treat people the way you like to be treated. Then they'll swarm around you instead of telling you to buzz off.

# Apology Basics

Any apology can be successful if you follow these simple steps.

**1.** Make the first move. It doesn't mean you're giving in. It means you care enough to work things out.

**2.** When you say it, mean it. Anyone can tell the difference between a sincere apology from the heart and a sarcastic "SOR-R-Y-Y!"

**3.** Don't forget to forgive. Accept your sibling's apology the way you want him or her to accept yours.

**4.** Wipe the slate clean. That means putting the fight in the past. Don't hold it against each other in future disagreements.

*I'm Sorry*





# Winning Siblings

California skating stars Sima Ganaba, 13, and her brother Amir, 16, tell how to keep a sibling relationship off thin ice.

## Sima's Story

"Once Amir jumped on my bed and broke it. I was so mad! When we went to skate, I got in the car and said, 'Time out.' That means we don't talk. Instead, we each think of how to solve the problem. At the rink, we put the fight behind us. If you have your mind on something else when you're skating, someone could get hurt.

"While we were warming up, Amir stopped and apologized. After that it was a lot easier to skate."

**Sima's advice:** "Give yourselves time to cool off. Then ask, 'How can we solve this?' Try both your solutions if you need to. Don't rush the process—it takes time to work things out!"

*Sima Ganaba*



*Watch for us at the Olympics in 2002!*



## Amir's Story

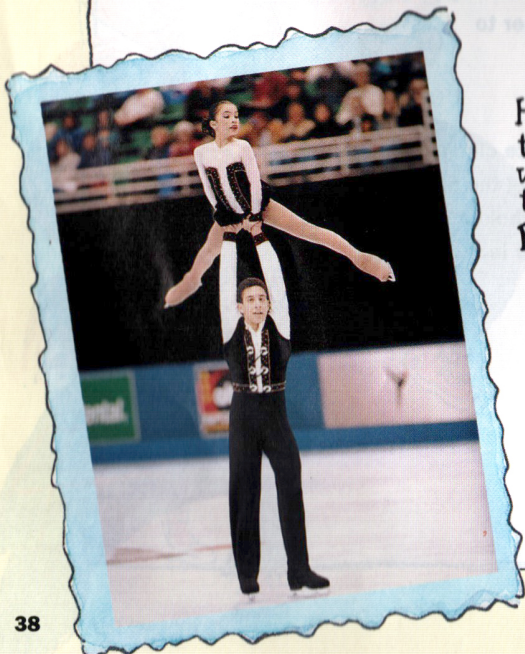
"One time Sima wanted me to go skate, so she unplugged my computer while I was working on it. That bothered me so much!"

"We didn't talk on the way to the rink. After we warmed up, Sima said, 'Let's focus on what we're doing.' We practiced so hard that all our anger fizzled out. On the way home, Sima apologized for what she'd done."

**Amir's advice:** "Try working on a project together. It helps you appreciate the other person, and you forget about being mad!" ★

*Amir Ganaba*

*Here we are at the U.S. Nationals, where we won the 1999 Junior Pairs Championship*





# Who's That Girl?

*Here's an American girl of yesterday. Read the clues about her and guess who she is now.*



## Clue 1

In grade school, I was the first in my class to memorize all the states, their capitals, and the U.S. presidents in order. I was in my own state of joy!



## Clue 2

In my California neighborhood, my friends and I were buddies with bugs. We captured ladybugs in jars, only to free them later. It's no wonder my favorite book was *Charlotte's Web*!



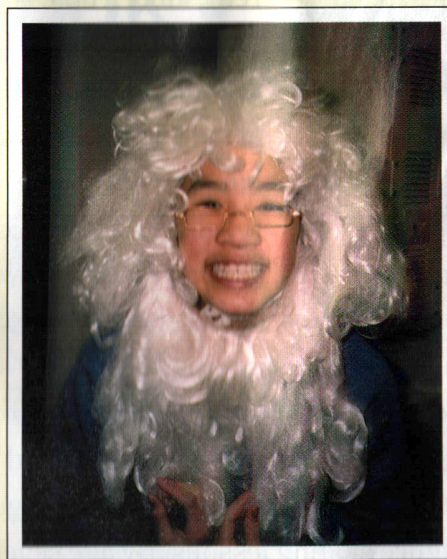
## Clue 3

Early each morning, my sister and I practiced ice-skating. But sometimes I'd forget to bring school clothes to change into. Oops! I'd have to spend all day wearing tights and a skating skirt.



## Clue 4

At age ten, I helped out at my grandparents' restaurant. As cashier, I added customers' bills and gave them change. My paycheck? A visit to the kitchen for my favorite—wonton soup and egg rolls.



Here I am at age eight.



## Clue 5

One year, I made the longest popcorn string for my school's Christmas tree. My family was so happy when I brought home my prize: a beautiful Christmas tree of our own!

## Take a guess!

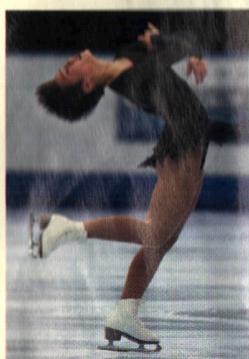
When this American girl grew up, she became:

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a scientist   | <input type="checkbox"/> a decorator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> an ice skater | <input type="checkbox"/> a chef      |

**Turn the page and find out if you're right!**



# She's Michelle Kwan



Skating to win!

Figure-skating champ Michelle Kwan can't remember a time she wasn't on the go. "My grandmother would laugh at me and say I was a little jumping bean," she recalls. As a girl, Michelle

tried gymnastics, swimming, volleyball, basketball, tap dancing, and ballet. "I was always moving!" she says.

When Michelle was five, she glided toward skating. Not content to sit by the ice and watch her older brother play hockey, she begged to start figure-skating lessons. By age seven, she was winning local skating competitions.

Soon after, Michelle was glued to the TV for the 1988 Winter Olympics. Watching the figure skaters, Michelle dreamed of going to the Olympics, too. "Dreams like that don't come along very often," she explains. "For me the dream became real. I know I'm very fortunate."

To reach her dream, Michelle began a demanding training schedule. In grade school, she skated up to four hours a day, even when it meant leaving the house at 5:15 A.M. At age 11, Michelle left her mom and brother at home in Torrance, California. With her sister and dad, she moved two hours north to be near a top training facility and to work with a better coach.

Michelle's hard work paid off. At the 1998 Winter Olympics, she won the silver medal. Was she disappointed not to win gold? "I have no regrets," she says. "I worked hard. My best just wasn't good enough that day. I learned that I could be satisfied by not winning if I skated my best."

Today Michelle has won two U.S. and three world figure-skating titles. This fall, she added college to her busy schedule, and her second book, *The Winning Attitude!*, was just published. For a sneak peek, take a look at the next page.

But don't forget Michelle's dream—because she sure hasn't! Watch for her to skate for the gold again at the 2002 Olympic Games.

## Michelle's advice to American girls:

**"Winning is not about how many medals you get—it's about accomplishing goals and just being the best you can be!"**

*Michelle Kwan*

You can write to Michelle c/o Disney Publishing Worldwide, 114 Fifth Avenue, 14th floor, New York, NY 10011.

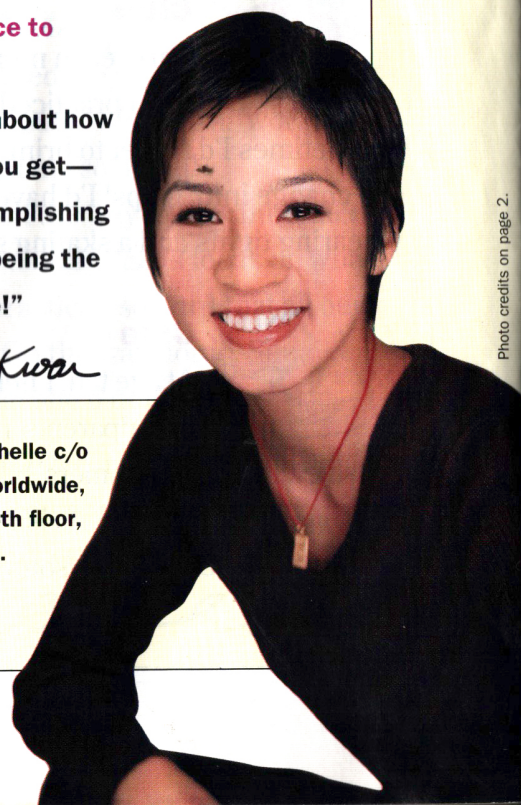
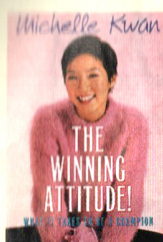


Photo credits on page 2.

Michelle always steps onto the ice with her left foot first!





## The Winning Attitude

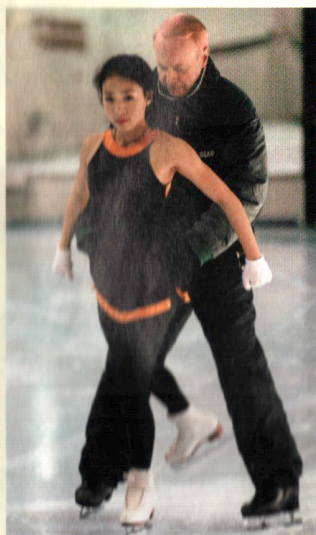
by Michelle Kwan

*Great tips on learning from your slips—taken from Michelle's new book!*

Frank Carroll is one of the best coaches in the world. The first time I had a lesson with him, when I was about 11, I was so nervous. I got on the ice, started my program, and quickly fell—splat, I was so embarrassed that I just sat there.

"Get up, young lady!" Frank insisted. "Keep going!"

The first thing I learned from Frank was that when you fall, you don't sit there and cry about it. You



Michelle and Frank

use it as an opportunity to learn something. I've been falling in front of Frank ever since, and each time I do I discover something new.

In life, everyone falls at some point. But that's O.K. You just have to keep getting back up again. Try to laugh when you win and laugh when you fall. No matter how far you go with your dream, never forget to enjoy what you do. Have fun!

Reprinted from *The Winning Attitude! What It Takes to Be a Champion* by Michelle Kwan. © 1999 Michelle Kwan Corp.

## Kwan's Quiz

Do you let your stumbles stop you? Take Michelle's quiz to see if you have the winning attitude!



© Dave Black 1999

1. If you fall off a horse, do you:

a. **get back up again?**

b. **stay on the ground?**

2. If your sister doesn't like the pea green sweater you gave her, do you:

a. **ask her what color she likes and offer to exchange it?**

b. **burst into tears because obviously you're the worst sister in the world?**

3. If your teacher comments that your paper on the American Revolution was interesting, but the revolution was really about freedom, not tea, do you:

a. **go back over your research to see if you missed something?**

b. **transfer to a new school because the teachers here don't know a thing about history?**

4. When you stub your toe against a wall, do you:

a. **decide to look where you're going next time?**

b. **blame the wall?**

Answers:

If you answered mostly **as**: Congratulations! You have the winning attitude!

If you answered mostly **bs**: Think about changing your outlook—it could change your life! ★



# The Giggle Gang



## Everything's Relative



It's time for Thanksgiving dinner, but Mia's table isn't quite ready. The guests are sitting in the correct seats. But as you can see, their place cards are blank! With the clues at the right in mind, can you help Mia fill in the blanks with the names of her guests?

Marie and her daughter Melanie made a pumpkin pie with Melanie's aunt's recipe. Marty mashed potatoes using his sister's recipe. And Mia's dad Mark made turkey according to his wife's recipe. Michelle supplied all the recipes for the meal.

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? Pilgrims.

Age 13, California

Where do you bury a turkey on Thanksgiving? In a gray yard.

Age 12, Ohio

Which of Santa's reindeer is out of this world? Comet. Grace Engle

Age 8, Virginia

Why did Santa have only seven reindeer leading his

All answers on page 44.



# Holiday Wordplay

Look forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally to find all the holiday words present below. When you're finished, use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks and spell out a secret message!

BELL  
CANDLES  
CAROL  
CHRISTMAS  
HANUKKAH

JOY  
KWANZAA  
NEW YEAR  
PARTY  
SNOW

THANKSGIVING  
VACATION

Secret Message:



Catey Rice  
Age 10, Wisconsin

What kind of bread do Santa's elves like to use when they make sandwiches for lunch? Shortbread.

## Deck the Halls

Caroline's making a Christmas garland. But she has only six cranberries and six pieces of popcorn left. Can you finish the pattern Caroline has started, using up all her supplies? Hint: think backward!



## New Year's Numbers

Answer these questions to count down to the new year!

1. How many weeks are in a year?
2. How many months are in a decade?
3. How many decades are in a century?
4. How many years are in a millennium?



Samantha Greenwood

Age 12, California

sleigh on Christmas Eve? Because Comet was home cleaning the sink. Emily Hetola Who do cats wait for on Christmas Eve?

Age 13, Minnesota



## Punch Lines

1. Fall into line and solve this riddle sent by Marie Bunagan, age 12, of California.

How can you turn a *hole* into a building by adding just two straight lines?



2. Now put it all on the line! Try this tricky puzzle from 11-year-old Vanessa Vancuren of Washington.

How can you get ten by adding five more straight lines to these four?



## AG Code

Use the decoder to unscramble the answer to this riddle sent in by Ann Johnson, age 9, of Minnesota.



What do you get when you cross a snowball  
with a shark?

C O U E T U T T O

F \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

## Answer Box

**Secret Message: Happy holidays from the Gigggle Gang!**

## ဂါနဂျီရီဂျီ

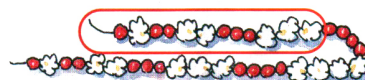
S H C A R O L A P J O Y  
 N P T H A K K U N A H  
 O C K W A N Z A  
 W A O I L D A Y  
 G N I V I G S K N A H T  
 F D R O N O I T A C A V  
 M T B E L T H M E G I  
 G E Y T R A P G L A E G  
 A S N N E W Y E A R S G

**Holiday Wordplay:**

**Ag Code: Frostbite!**

Punch Lines: 1. note  
2. TEN

**New Year's Numbers: 1. 52, 2. 120, 3. 10, 4. 1000**



### Deck the Halls:

The buzzword, *soitree*, is used on page 33.

What starts with "t," ends with "t," and is full of "t"? A teapot. *Maria Sharapova* What kind of music do teapots like?

**Age 12, Florida**

Heavy kettle.	Angela Wiser	Why did the tomato blush? She saw the salad dressing!	Michelle Rhyance	Why did the cookie visit a doctor? He felt crumbly.	Michelle Baldus
	North Carolina		Age 11, Texas		Age 11, Vermont



In the U.S., **American**

**Sign Language** (ASL) is the fourth most commonly used language. More than a million Americans use ASL's expressive hand signs to communicate!



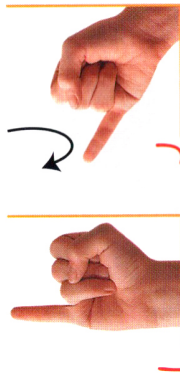
**I love you!**

You can sign whole words and phrases, too. This is the sign for "I love you." ★



**A**

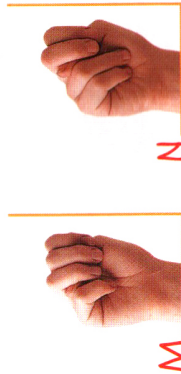
Share these graceful, silent signals with your family and friends.



**I**



**J**



**M**



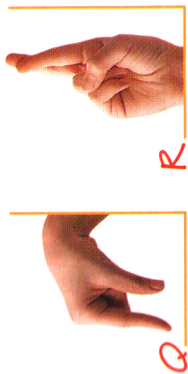
**N**



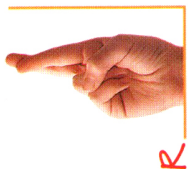
*Girl*

Right hand forms the letter A. Place thumb on right cheek and move down twice.

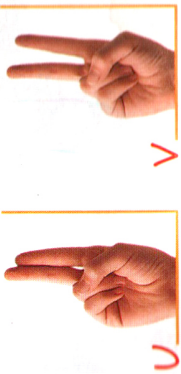
**C**



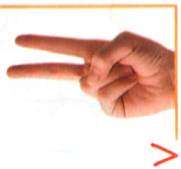
**Q**



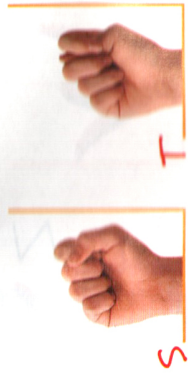
**R**



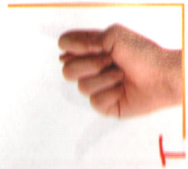
**U**



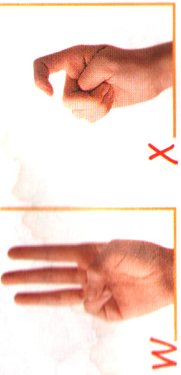
**V**



**S**



**T**



**W**



**X**

*Family*

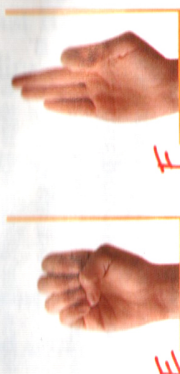
Both hands form the letter F, palms facing each other. Move your hands so your palms face you, with your pinkies touching.



**A**



**B**



**E**



**F**

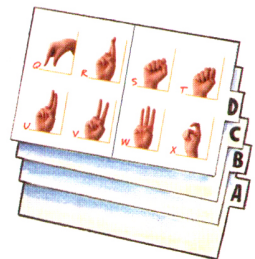
# Mini Book

Put together this Mini Book of sign language, and communicate with your friends using your hands! To make the book, all you need are scissors and a stapler. Be sure to read the directions carefully before you begin.

**1** Cut out each pair of pages only on the dotted lines. Be sure to cut around the tabs marked with the letters A, B, C, and D.



**2** Stack the pages on top of one another in the order shown below, with the letters on the tabs facing up.



Continued

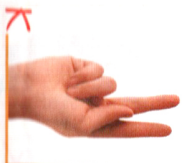
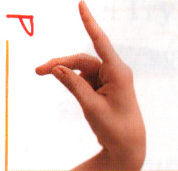
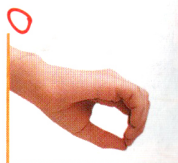
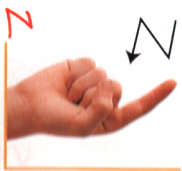
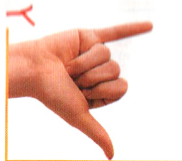
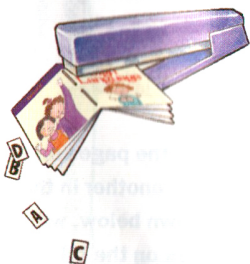


# Mini Book

**3** Fold the stack of pages in half along the solid line in the center. The cover of the Mini Book should now be on top. Run your fingernail down the folded edge to help the pages lie flat.

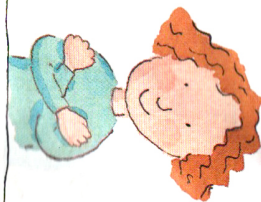


**4** Open the folded stack. Staple along the center line. Cut off the tabs, and you're done!



## Hug

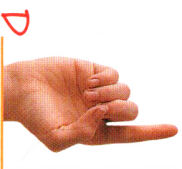
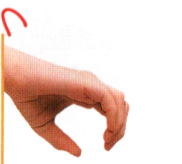
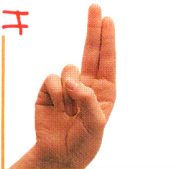
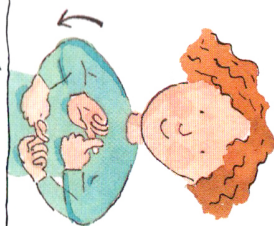
Both hands form the letter S. Cross arms across chest as if you're hugging something.



Each ASL hand gesture expresses an idea or concept. Fingerspelling—spelling out a word, letter by letter—is used to spell out names or places that don't have signs. To sign the letters and words in this little book, use your right hand unless the sign calls for both hands. The pictures in this book are what the other person should see when you are signing to her.

## Friend

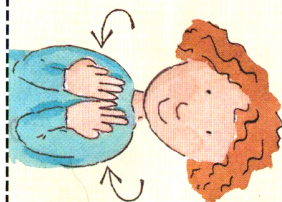
Link index fingers, first with the right index finger on top, and then the left.



American Girl

Mini Book

# Sign Language





# HELP!

**Dear American Girl,**

I have a stuffed animal problem. I have collected at least 100 of them. They're crowding my room. I can't sell them because I've become totally attached to them. How can I part with them?

*Stuffed Animal Nut*

Tell your family and friends you're done collecting stuffed animals so no one will give you any new ones. Then make a small pile of your favorite animals to keep. Now comes the hard part: what to do with the others? Maybe your plush pals can make other kids as happy as they've made you! Got a houseful of holiday visitors? Let the little kids pick out a few new furry friends. Once the animals have new kids to love them, it will be easier to say good-bye.



**Dear American Girl,**

One day we played basketball during P.E. I got the ball and ran to the wrong end. I shot and made a basket for the other team! Now kids are making fun of me. What should I do?

*Basketball Failure*



Sometimes even professional athletes make mistakes like yours and score points against their own teams. It happens! When someone teases you, see if you can make a joke of it. It won't be as easy for them to laugh at you if you laugh at yourself first. Say, "Well, I'm good at shooting baskets. I just have to remember where to shoot!"



**Dear American Girl,**

My friend is really nice and takes me along when she goes places. But I can't take her anywhere because my mom doesn't have time. Help!

*No Return Trips*

It sounds like you have a really good friend who likes to spend time with you. Make sure you thank her when she takes you somewhere

fun. But even if you can't take your friend anywhere, you can still do something special for her. Make a fancy friendship bracelet, put together a silly scrapbook, or just plan an afternoon to spend together. You don't have to take her on big trips to be a great friend.



**Dear American Girl,**

I swear too much. I swear if I'm fighting with my brother or if I miss a goal, but I don't want to! Got any tips?

*FRUSTRATED in Ohio*

Your swearing has turned into a plain old bad habit. Habits are hard to break, but if you really want to stop, you can. Here are a few ideas to try: Come up with funny phrases to say instead of swear words, like "Oh, chip 'n' dip!" Or pretend someone's writing down every word you say for a book about you. If you're about to say something you wouldn't want in that book, zip your lip! If you slip, keep trying! Habits are made by repeating them over and over, and you can break a habit the same way.



# MORE HELP!

**Dear American Girl,**

My little sister really embarrasses me at school! The other day she wore a velvet dress and construction worker boots! My friends tease me about her. Please help!

**EMBARRASSED!**

Being teased about something you can't control is no fun—especially if you agree with what your friends say about your sister. But see if there's a teensy part of you that admires your sister for doing things her own way. If she doesn't care what other people think of her clothes, then why should you? In fact, if she ever grows out of her unique style, you might be surprised to find that you miss it.

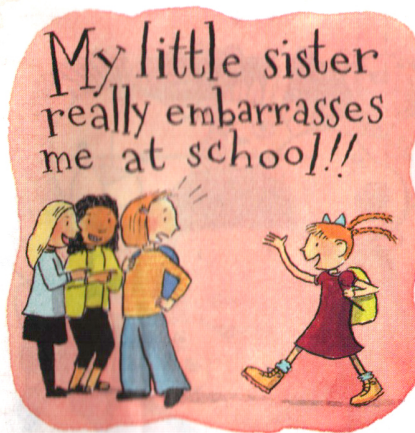


**Dear American Girl,**

My best friend sometimes gets new stuff, and I get jealous. I wish I could stop, but I can't! What should I do?

**Jealousy!**

When your friend gets something great that you don't have, you may feel like you don't measure up. You already know that these feelings



can drive a wedge between even best friends. When jealousy strikes, instead of feeling bad about what you don't have, think about what you do have. Try hard not to fall into the trap of believing that stuff is what makes a person happy, because deep down, you know that's just not true.



**Dear American Girl,**

I'm a vegetarian. When I go to a friend's house to eat, sometimes they have meat in the meal. I don't want to be rude, but I don't want to eat the meat.

**Mixed Feelings**

Make sure your friends know you're a vegetarian. The time to tell them is before you accept the invitation to eat, not at the dinner table. You could say something like, "I'd love to eat over, but I don't eat meat. I

hope that won't be a problem."

That way, they'll be able to include some meatless options in the meal. If you are invited at the last minute and are faced with a meaty meal, just say, "No thank you" when the meat comes your way and fill up on other dishes. If you don't make a big deal out of it, chances are your hosts won't, either.



## Advice from You

"I used to think I couldn't do things as well as my friends could. I told my dad my problem and he said, 'You are an American girl, not an American't girl.' Now whenever I think I can't do something I remember my dad's saying."

*Margan Belanger*  
Age 11, Rhode Island

Need advice? Write:  
Help!

**AmericanGirl**

8400 Fairway Place  
Middleton, WI 53562





## ★ ★ Shining Star

Look out, Santa Claus—you've got competition! Veronica Pomeroy, 13, volunteers with Operation Christmas Child, a group that delivers holiday gifts to needy kids all around the world. Last year, the California girl collected more than 1,400 shoe boxes filled with small toys, snacks, and supplies! Veronica says she includes "something to play with, some school supplies, and something like a hairbrush" in each gift box she puts together. She's hoping to gather more boxes than ever this year.

To spread the word about Operation Christmas Child, Veronica makes announcements at school and hands out flyers in her community. Classmates, neighbors, and friends all lend a hand by putting together boxes and passing them on to Veronica.

But Veronica's efforts stretch far beyond her own community. In December 1998 she traveled to Nicaragua to hand-deliver gift boxes to children whose homes had

been destroyed by Hurricane Mitch. The kids Veronica met loved their gifts. "It makes me feel good that I can help these kids and that they enjoy the boxes," says Veronica, "but I wish I could do more."

To learn more about Operation Christmas Child or to donate a box yourself, call 1-800-353-5949 or write to this address:

Operation Christmas Child  
801 Bamboo Road  
P.O. Box 3000  
Boone, NC 28607

**Do you have a friend who really shines as a volunteer? Maybe you're a star volunteer yourself. Write to the address on page 2 to tell us all about the shining stars you know. Each girl we honor receives an official certificate and a sparkly star pendant—and, AG will donate \$500 to her cause! ★**



# American Girl®

Coming up in the January/February issue



## Mmmmm!

Lip-smacking  
goodies to make

## Girls Rule

#1

What's great about  
being a girl today

## Red Hot

Throw a slumber party  
everyone will love!



## Applause!

Spend a day on the  
set with a TV actress

Jan. 1, 2000



1863

BASHE

When Hannah's great-great-grandmother Bashe (BOSH-eh) was a girl, she lived in a *shtetl*, a small Jewish village in Russia. Life for Russian Jews was hard and often unfair. Jews could live only in a part of Russia called the Pale of Settlement. When Bashe was 13, her grandfather chose a husband for her. Bashe got married two years later, when she was only 15.



4

1999

HANNAH



Hannah's dad, Hannah,  
Hannah's mom, and Aviva

Hannah's last name is very unusual. When her parents got married, they decided to take parts of each of their last names and come up with a brand-new name. As far as they know, Hannah and her sister, Aviva, are the only people in the world with the last name Hamavid!

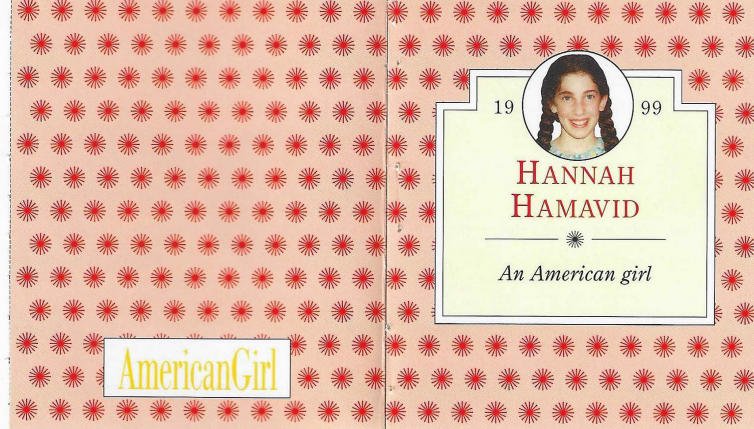
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43

HANNAH

43



19

99

HANNAH  
HAMAVID

An American girl





THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

Katie

An American Girl

HANNAH'S  
FAMILY ALBUM

1895



Hannah's great-grandmother Bashe after moving to America.

1900



Hannah's great-grandmother Ella (right), 24, with her sisters, Katie and Jennie. Ella's family didn't own a camera. They dressed up and went to a photographer's studio to have their pictures taken.

5

1959  
ELLEN



Ellen (right), age 11

Hannah's mom, Ellen, grew up in New Jersey. Her grandmother Ella lived with her family. Ella and Ellen had a very special relationship. Most mornings, before anyone else was awake, Ellen climbed into bed to snuggle with her grandmother. Ella told her wonderful stories about life in Russia. Ellen never forgot those cozy times with her grandmother.

2

1887  
ELLA

When Hannah's great-grandmother Ella was 12, her family left Russia for good. Ella's new home was the Lower East Side, a Jewish neighborhood in New York City. Ella's apartment was crowded—11 people in three rooms!



Ella (standing, right) and her family

Living together saved money. It also gave immigrants like Ella a warm, familiar feeling in their strange new land.

3

1999

HANNAH

An American girl

Hannah is holding a menorah, a special candle holder used during Hanukkah. Every year

Hannah makes a few menorahs and gives them away. She made this one for a friend who isn't Jewish.

On the first night of Hanukkah, Jewish families like Hannah's light the tall *shamash* candle and one other candle. Each night one more candle is added. On the last night of Hanukkah, all eight candles plus the *shamash* are lit, as a way of remembering the destruction of the Jewish Temple long ago.

1959

ELLEN

Hannah's mother

Ellen wore this outfit when she was a junior bridesmaid at her cousin Patty's wedding. In 1959, Ginny dolls like these were very popular. Ellen loved her Ginny doll and took it everywhere (well, not to Patty's wedding!). She spent hours building furniture and sewing clothes for her doll. Ellen often played with her doll on the extra-wide windowsill in her bedroom. She and her friends loved making up stories about their Ginny dolls going to sleepaway camp and boarding school and having other adventures.

1887

ELLA

Hannah's great-grandmother

Ella wore an outfit like this when she arrived in New York City. It was brand-new, bought just for the trip to America. But in America, this old-fashioned blouse, long skirt, and kerchief were worn only by *greenhorns*, or new arrivals. Everyone made fun of greenhorns, so most girls couldn't wait to trade their greenhorn clothes for stylish American dresses. But not Ella! She thought new clothes were a waste of money. For Ella, going to school to learn English was a better way to feel at home in America.

1863

BASHE

Hannah's great-grandmother

For Bashe and other Russian Jews, Hanukkah was a minor holiday. Other holidays, like Passover and Yom Kippur, were considered much more important. But Bashe's family did light the *chanukiyah*, or menorah, to honor a miracle that was supposed to have happened many years earlier in Israel, when a tiny jar of oil from the holy Temple burned for eight days instead of one. Some families were too poor to own a *chanukiyah*. Instead, they carved out potatoes, filled them with oil, and floated lit candle wicks in the oil.

NAME:  
Hannah Rachel  
Hamavid

AGE:  
11

HOME:  
Massachusetts

GRADE:  
6th

SIBLING:  
Aviva, a  
younger sister

PETS:  
A cat, a dog,  
two hamsters,  
and an iguana

HOBBIES:  
Math, painting,  
walking on stilts

AMBITION:  
To be an  
author/  
illustrator



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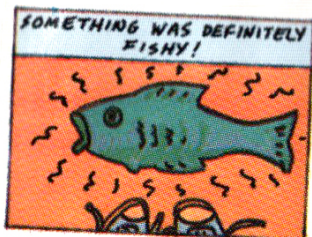


Look!  
**FREE stickers**  
from me to you!

pair, Ten days later eaten by a polar bear, that was the end of cleeeee-O! There goes cleee-O floating down the Delaware chewing on her underwear, couldn't find another

**GREAT**

**STAY OUT**

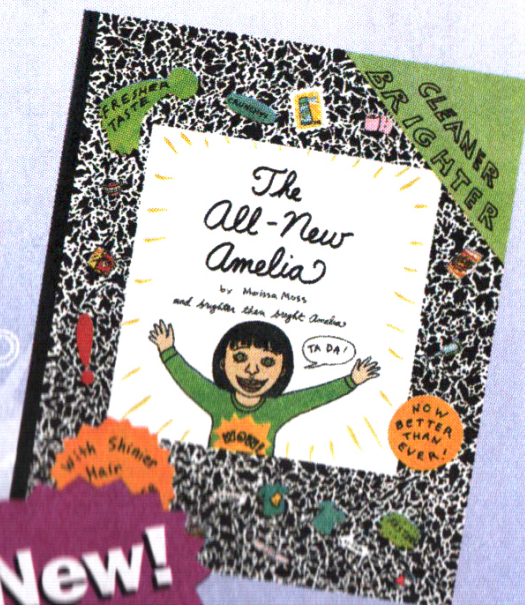


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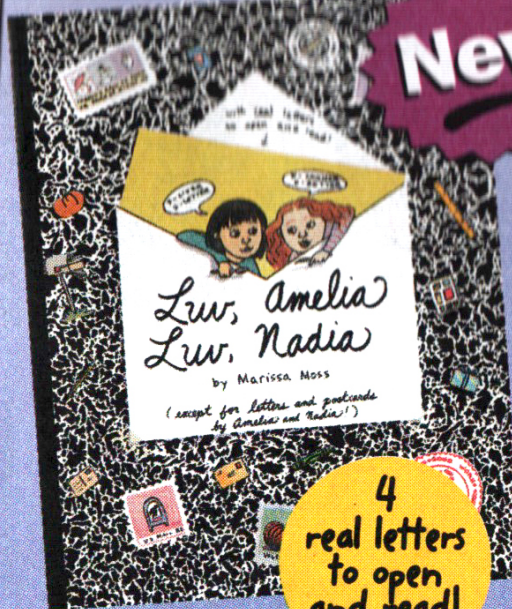
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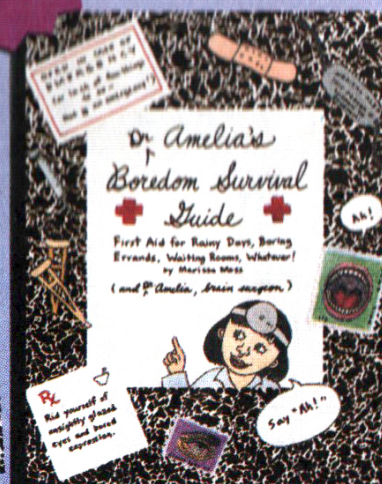
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and read!

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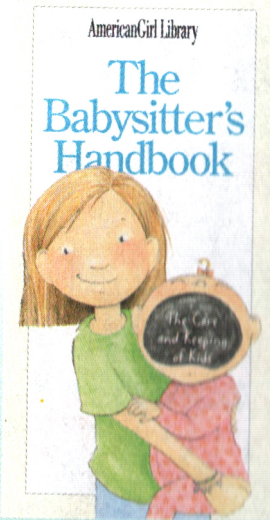
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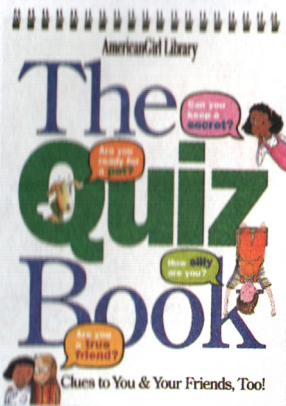
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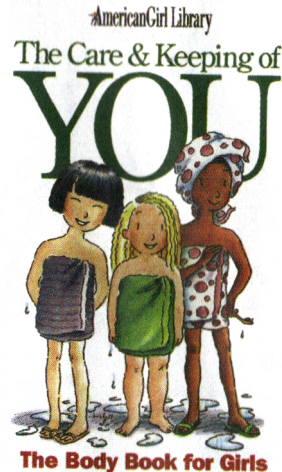


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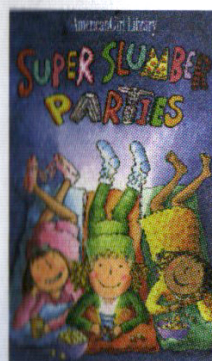
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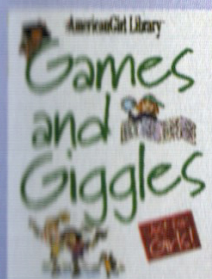
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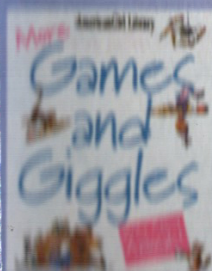
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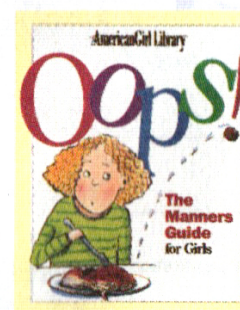
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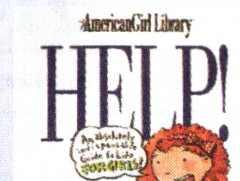
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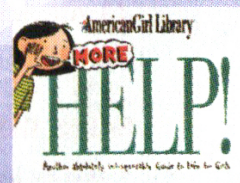
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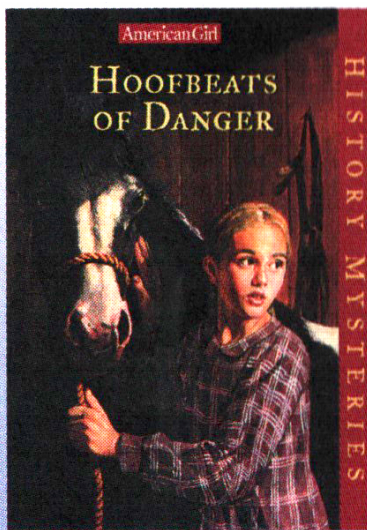
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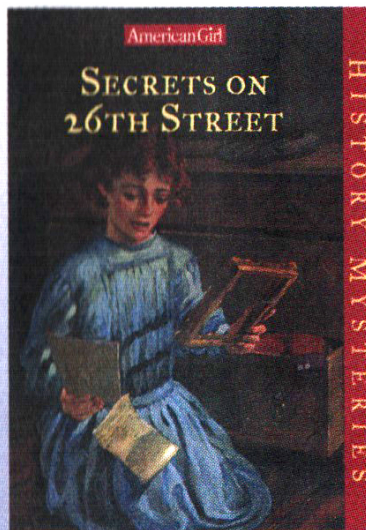


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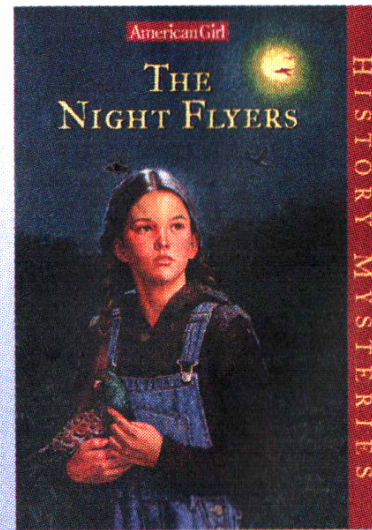


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